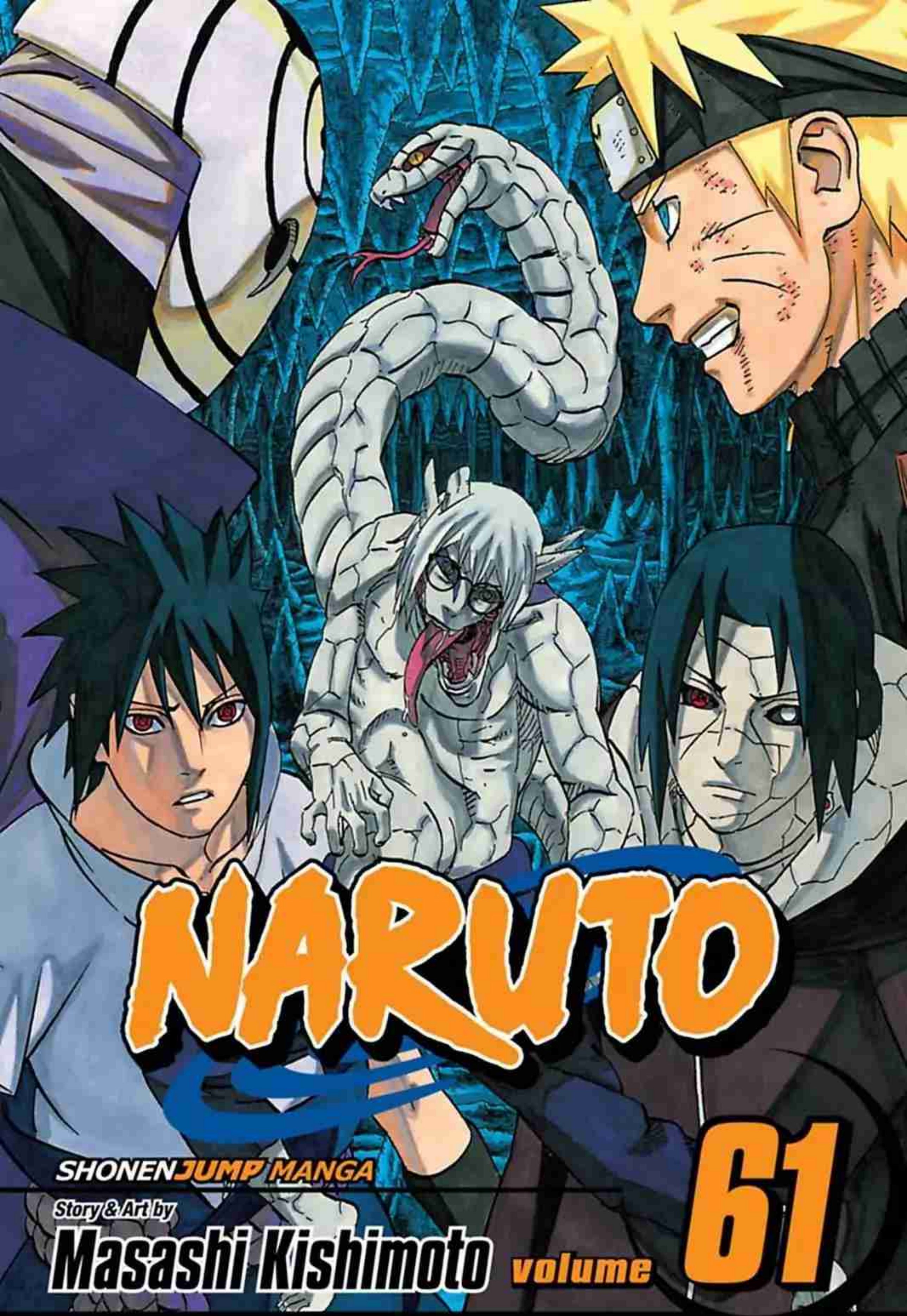
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 61

For those of you who weren't able to read the "Road to Ninja" one-shot, you can check it out on the Japanese *Shonen Jump* website!

The story is gonna get hotter and hotter! I don't want to rush anyone, but I want you to read volume 62 too!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2012

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 61
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Joel Enos
Touch-up Art & Lettering/John Hunt, Inori Fukuda Trant
Design/Sam Elzway
Editors/Joel Enos, Alexis Kirsch

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

CHARACTERS

Naruto ナルト

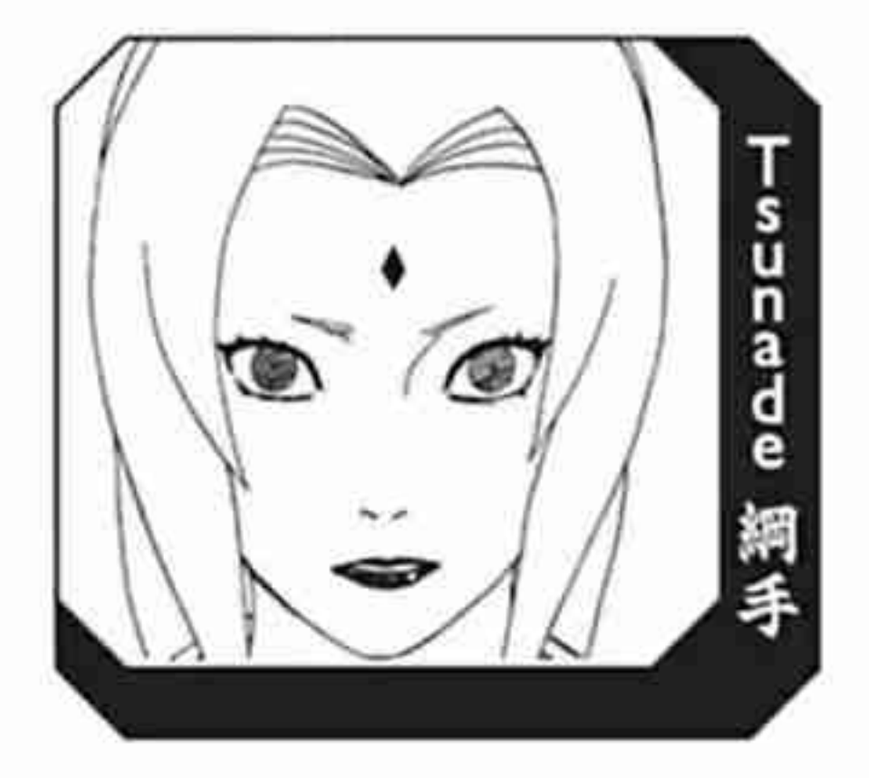
Sasuke サスケ

Kakashi カカシ

Sakura サクラ

Sai サイ

Yamato ヤマト


Tsunade 綱手

Gaara 我愛羅

THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power.

Two years pass. Naruto grows up and engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with the Akatsuki and sets out to destroy Konoha.

The Fourth Great Ninja War against the Akatsuki begins. The Allied Shinobi Forces begin to rally back after a series of unfavorable battles early on and have the Five Shadows assemble on the battlefield in order to stop the Edotensei-revived Madara! Naruto deepens his bond with Nine Tails and the other jinchûriki during his battle against the masked man. Meanwhile, Sasuke encounters a revived Itachi!

NARUTO

VOL. 61
UCHIHA BROTHERS UNITED FRONT

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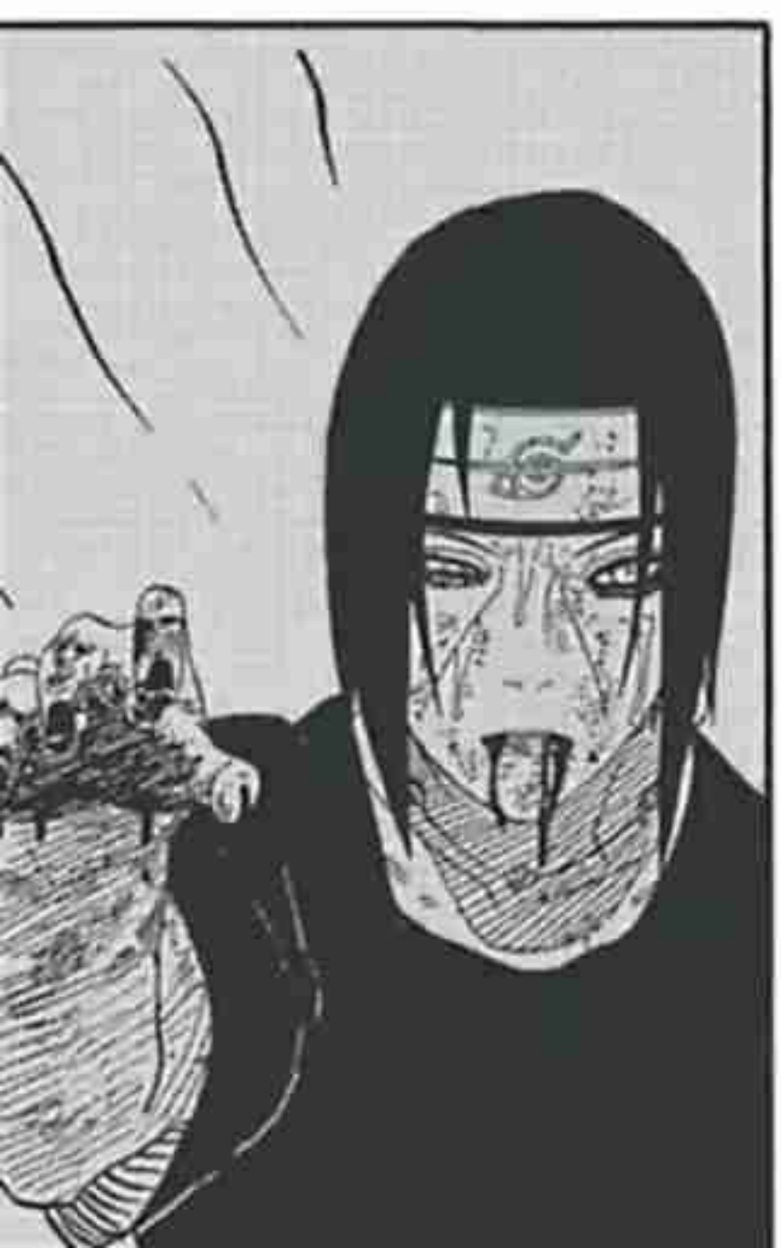
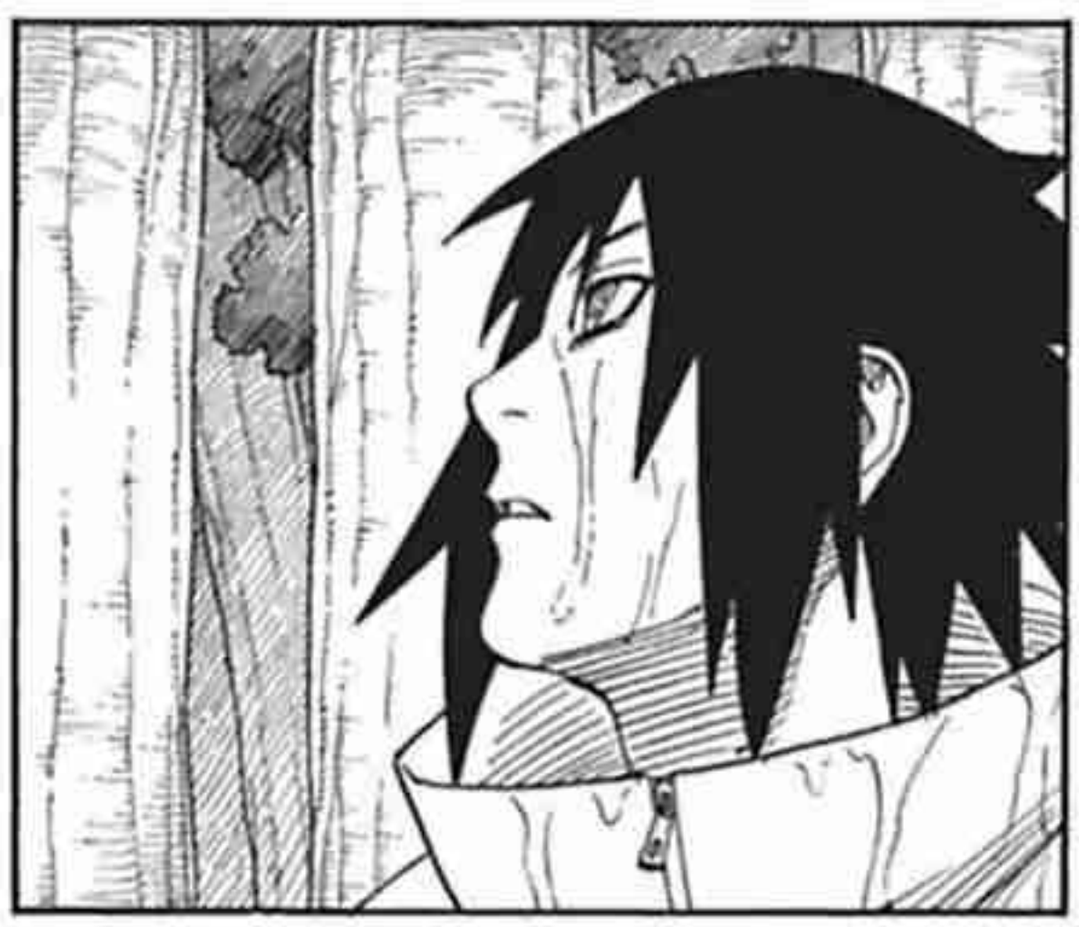
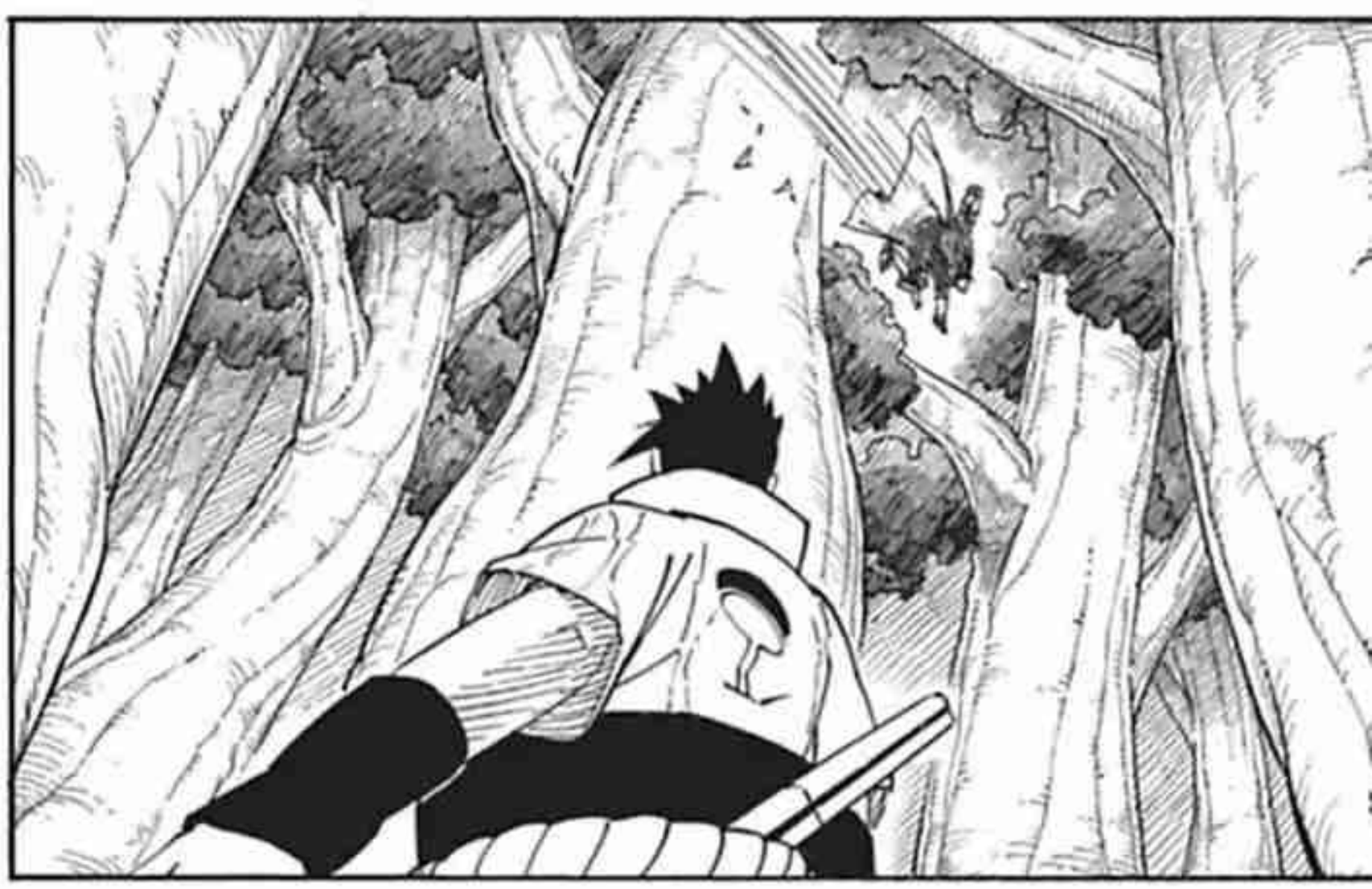




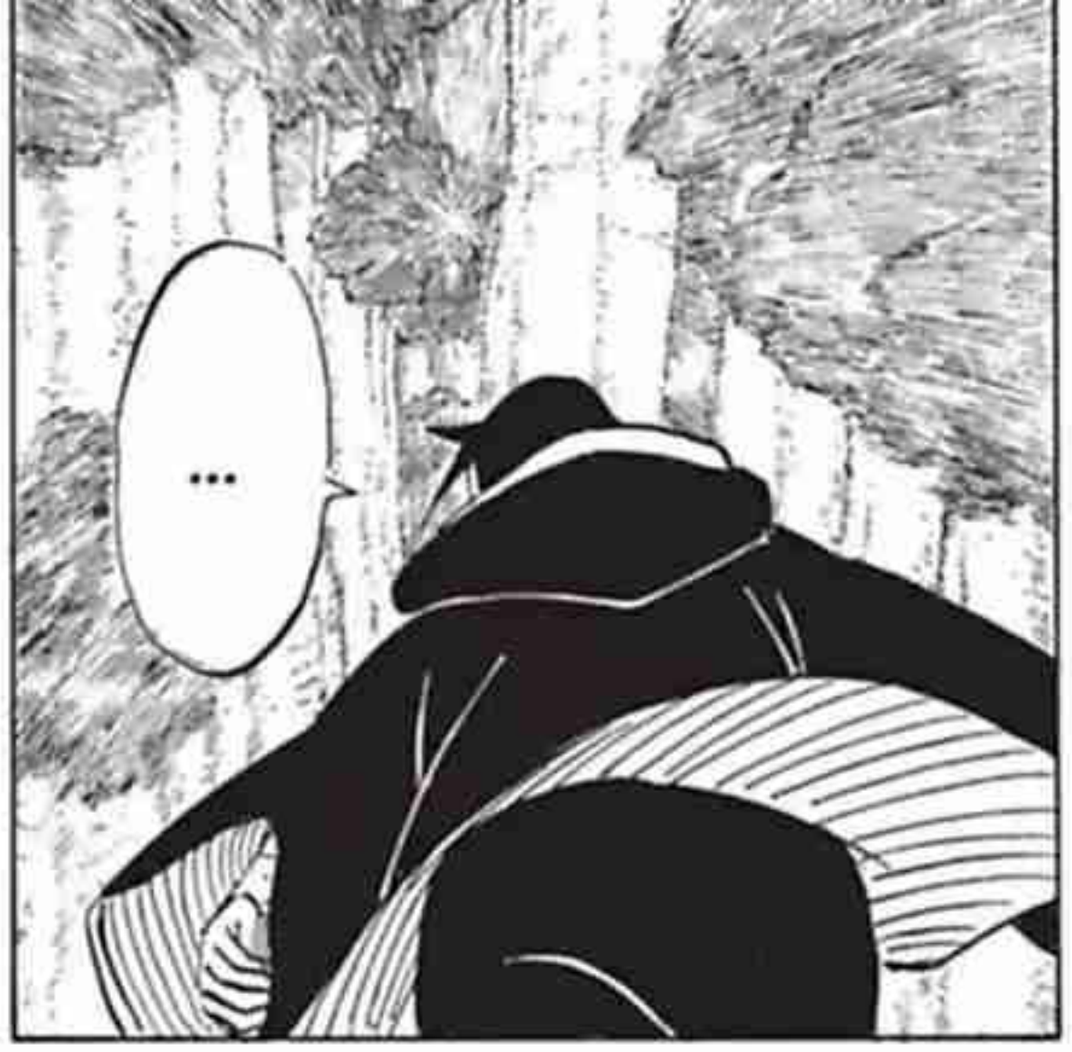


GRRRR

RRRRR

WAIT!!

WHOOSH


...

IS THAT YOU, ITACHI?!

WAIT!!

I SAID...
WÖS

BA

KRAK

USH

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

...

I DIDN'T KNOW...
...YOU COULD DO IT TOO!

THINGS TO DO.
NO TIME TO TALK.
TAK
FWOO

THIS IS KABUTO'S JUTSU. I'M AN EDOTENSEI, A REANIMATED SHINOBI, BACK FROM THE DEAD.

YOU'LL NEVER FIND YOUR PATIENCE.
YOU'RE AS OBSTINATE AS EVER.

YOU'RE HERE.
I DON'T CARE!!
AND I HAVE QUESTIONS!!

ARE YOU RUNNING FROM ME OUT OF GUILT...FOR BEING A LIAR?! YOU HAVE NO COURAGE TO TELL ME THE TRUTH!!
NOW YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM ME?!

TO COME FIND YOU ONCE I HAD THE SAME EYES AS YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT!

THAT'S WHY I WILL DESTROY KONOHA!
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!

...

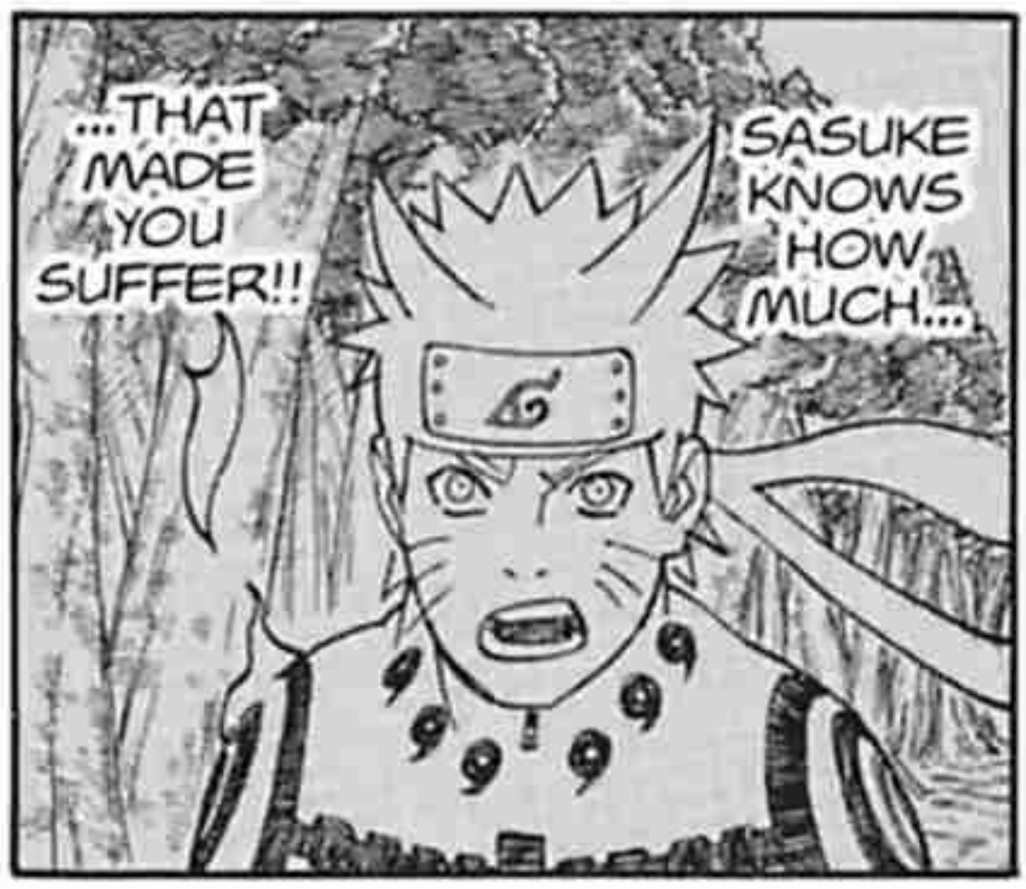
I CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR GENJUTSU!
I NO LONGER LIVE INSIDE A FANTASY!!

BUT MY TRUTH IS REAL.
YOUR REALITY MIGHT BE AN ILLUSION.

I TOLD YOU WE EACH LIVE DEEP INSIDE OUR OWN FANTASY, REMEMBER?
WHEN WE FOUGHT...

...

THESE ARE YOUR EYES!!


...THAT MADE YOU SUFFER!!
SASUKE KNOWS HOW MUCH...

BUT I'VE HEARD ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.
THAT PART OF YOU IS STILL THE SAME.
I KNOW HOW YOU'VE CHANGED.

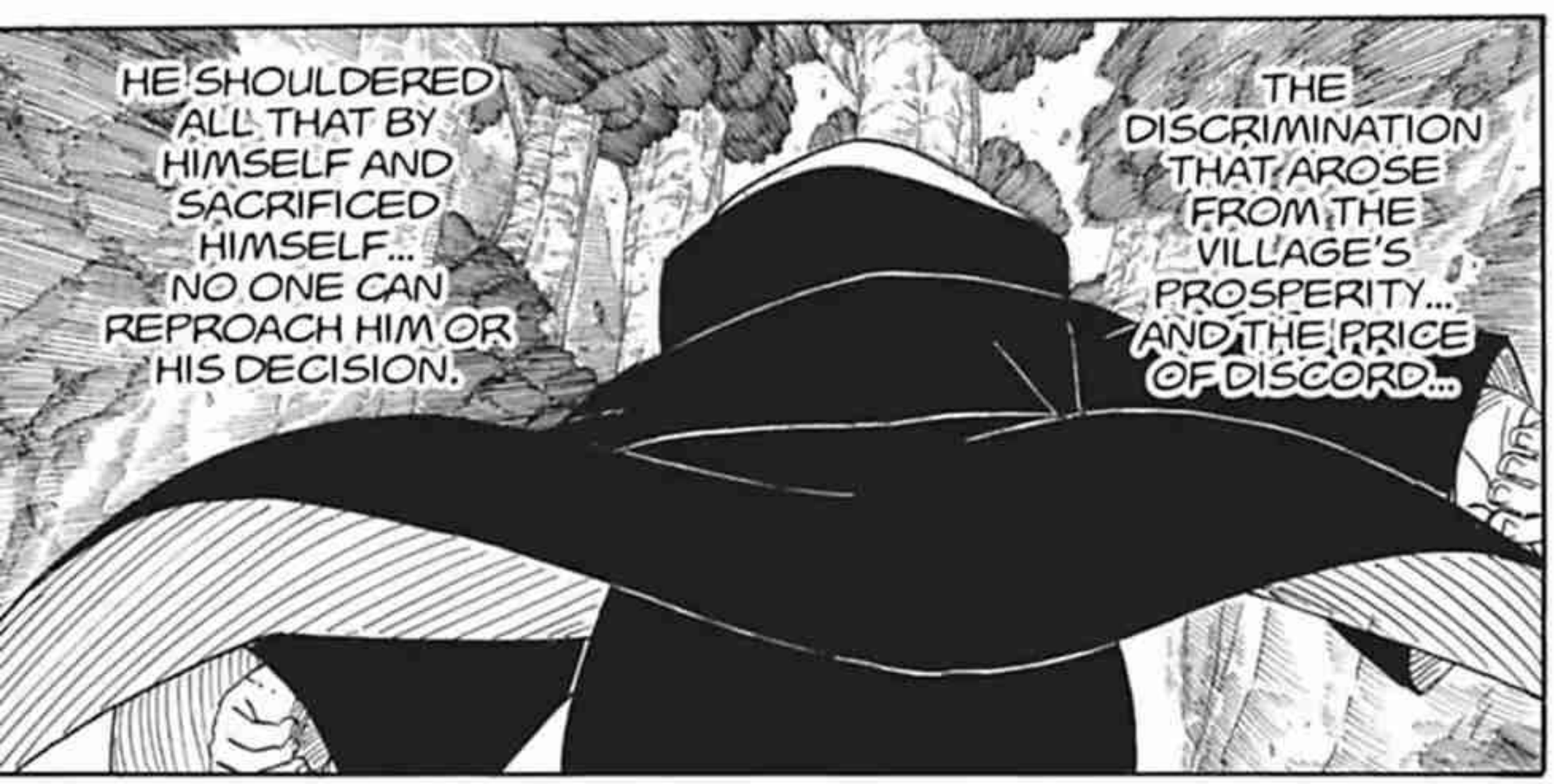
HE'S GOING TO KILL EVERYONE THAT MADE YOU SUFFER!
BUT SASUKE IS NOT LIKE YOU. HE'S REALLY GOING TO DESTROY KONOHA!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL ME ALONG WITH MY PARENTS.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE!
BUT NO...

YOU CHANGED MY WORLD, LONG AGO!
NO!!

SO HE DIDN'T BETRAY THE UCHIHA OUT OF HATRED... IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.

THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD DROP THE CURTAIN ON HIS OWN CLAN'S HISTORY.
AND SO ITACHI MADE HIS DECISION.


HE SHOULDERED ALL THAT BY HIMSELF AND SACRIFICED HIMSELF... NO ONE CAN REPROACH HIM OR HIS DECISION.
THE DISCRIMINATION THAT AROSE FROM THE VILLAGE'S PROSPERITY... AND THE PRICE OF DISCORD...

...

WHY DID YOU SPARE JUST ME?!
WHY ME?!

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT ME VERSUS OUR FATHER OR MOTHER?!

WHY ME...?!!

WHY ONLY ME...?

TO HIM, YOUR LIFE... WAS MORE PRECIOUS THAN EVEN THE VILLAGE.

...BUT HE JUST COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO KILL YOU. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

I WANTED YOU TO GROW UP AND JUDGE ME. I DESERVED TO BE DEALT WITH ONLY BY ANOTHER UCHIHA!

YOU THINK I DID IT JUST FOR YOU?

YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE UCHIHA CLAN HAD DONE. YOU WERE JUST A CHILD.

BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

YOU'RE A CRIMINAL.

THAT HATRED MADE YOU GO ROGUE.

I WAS WRONG.

I USED YOUR HATRED.

I TRIED TO LEAD YOU DOWN THAT PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

BEFORE I DIED...

SHOW

I CHANGED THE SIGNPOSTS ON THAT PATH WITH LIES AND MY OCULAR POWERS.

EVEN THOUGH ALL I WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO WALK THE RIGHT PATH.

...

TOK

YOU OUGHT TO DECIDE YOUR OWN JOURNEY.

...YOU'RE RIGHT...

YEAH...

I DON'T CARE FOR SUCH A PATH!!

YOU JUST WANTED ME TO FOLLOW YOUR SIGNPOSTS? WITH NO THOUGHTS OF MY OWN?

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

HEH...

...MY EYES CAN STRIP AWAY THE TOPCOAT OF PAINT NOW!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO REWRITE THE SIGN-POSTS...

NOTHING...

JUST REALIZING THAT THE SIGNPOSTS WERE *NOT* YOUR ONLY GUIDE...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU. THERE ARE THINGS I'VE GOT TO DO.

I'M NOT RUNNING FROM YOU.

AND NOW, EVEN DEAD, YOU STILL RUN FROM ME?!

WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE, YOU NEVER PAID ANY ATTENTION TO ME, ALWAYS POKING MY FOREHEAD, SAYING FORGIVE ME, AND RUNNING OFF.

NEEE...

...THE EDOTENSEI!

I MUST STOP...

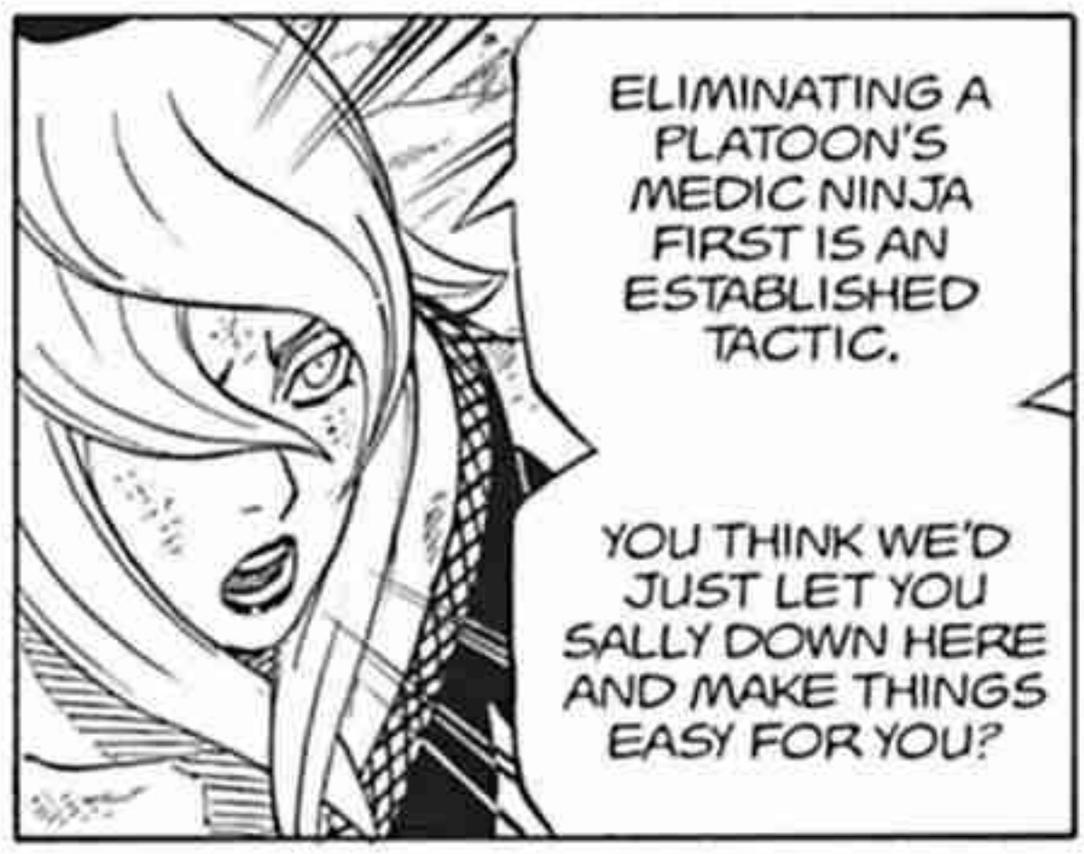
WHAT OF IT?!

YOU'VE GOT **HIS** BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH YOUR VEINS?

YOU THERE, FEMALE MEDIC NINJA...

...!

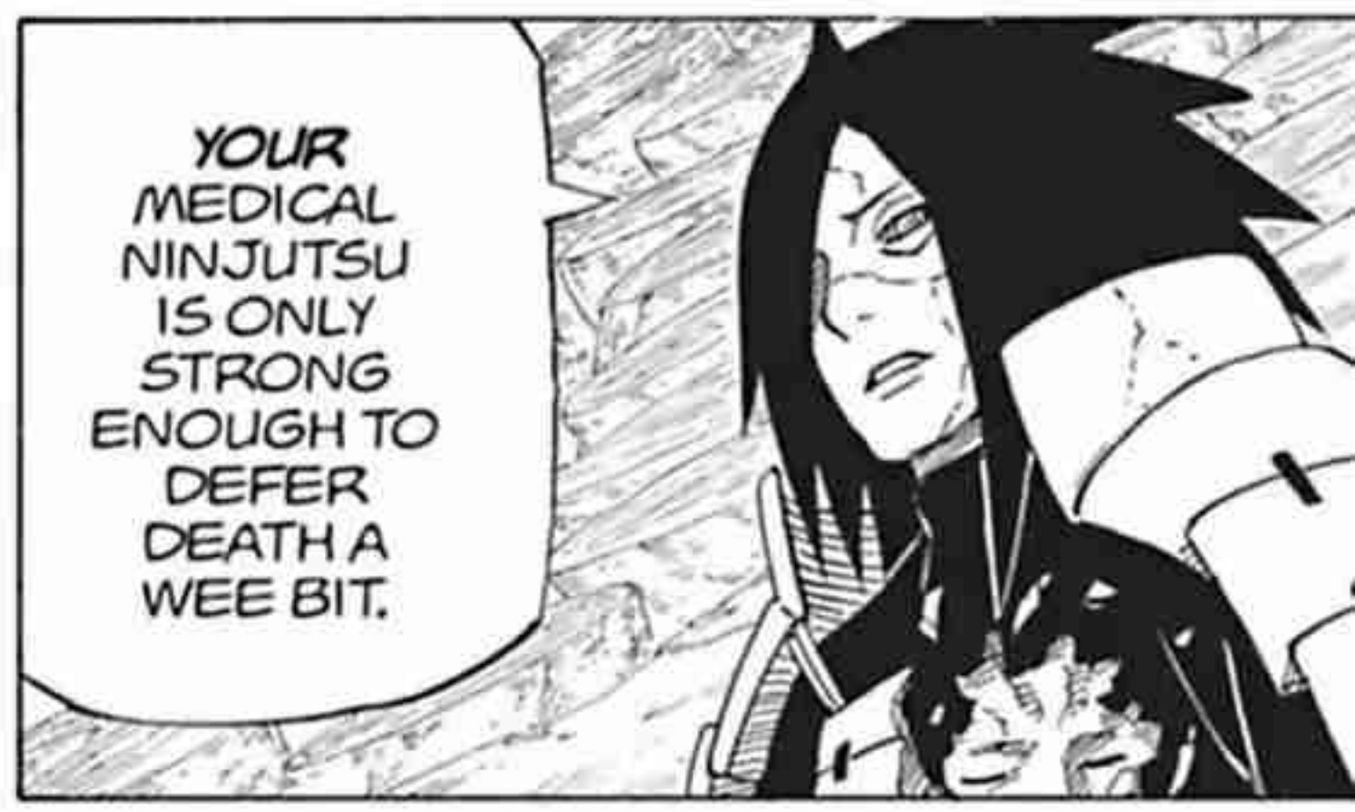
I'M TAKING YOU DOWN FIRST.


ELIMINATING A PLATOON'S MEDIC NINJA FIRST IS AN ESTABLISHED TACTIC.
YOU THINK WE'D JUST LET YOU SALLY DOWN HERE AND MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU?

...WHA?!

IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A DESCENDANT OF SENJU HASHIRAMA.
ZWW...
YOU'RE WRONG...

IT'S PATHETIC COMPARED TO SENJU HASHIRAMA.


YOUR MEDICAL NINJUTSU IS ONLY STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFER DEATH A WEE BIT.

HE WAS THE ULTIMATE SHINOBI.

HE COULD HEAL WOUNDS WITHOUT WEAVING A SINGLE SIGN.

FSH

THIS IS *NOTHING.*

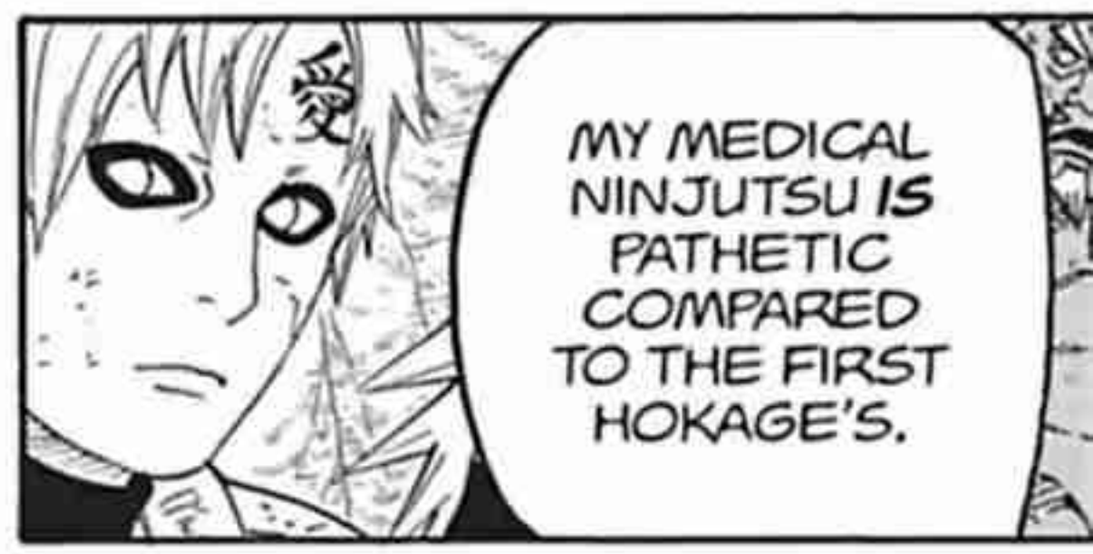
I FOUGHT A ***REAL*** LIFE AND DEATH BATTLE AGAINST HIM.

EVEN IF YOU ARE A DESCENDANT OF HASHIRAMA, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

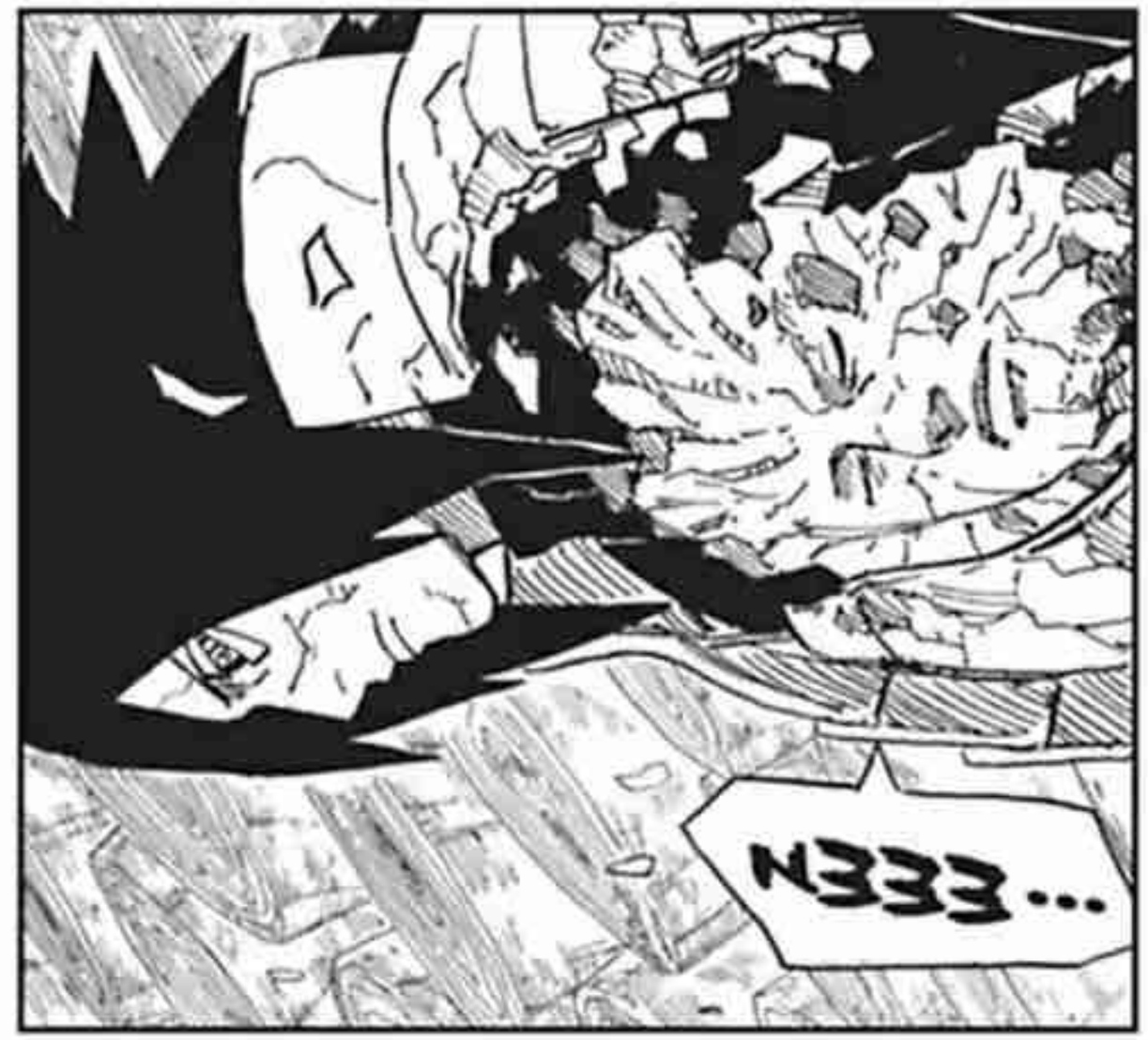
...

AND YOU'RE A WEAK WOMAN!

YOU CAN'T USE WOOD STYLE. YOUR MEDICAL NINJUTSU DOES NOT EVEN COME CLOSE TO HIS.

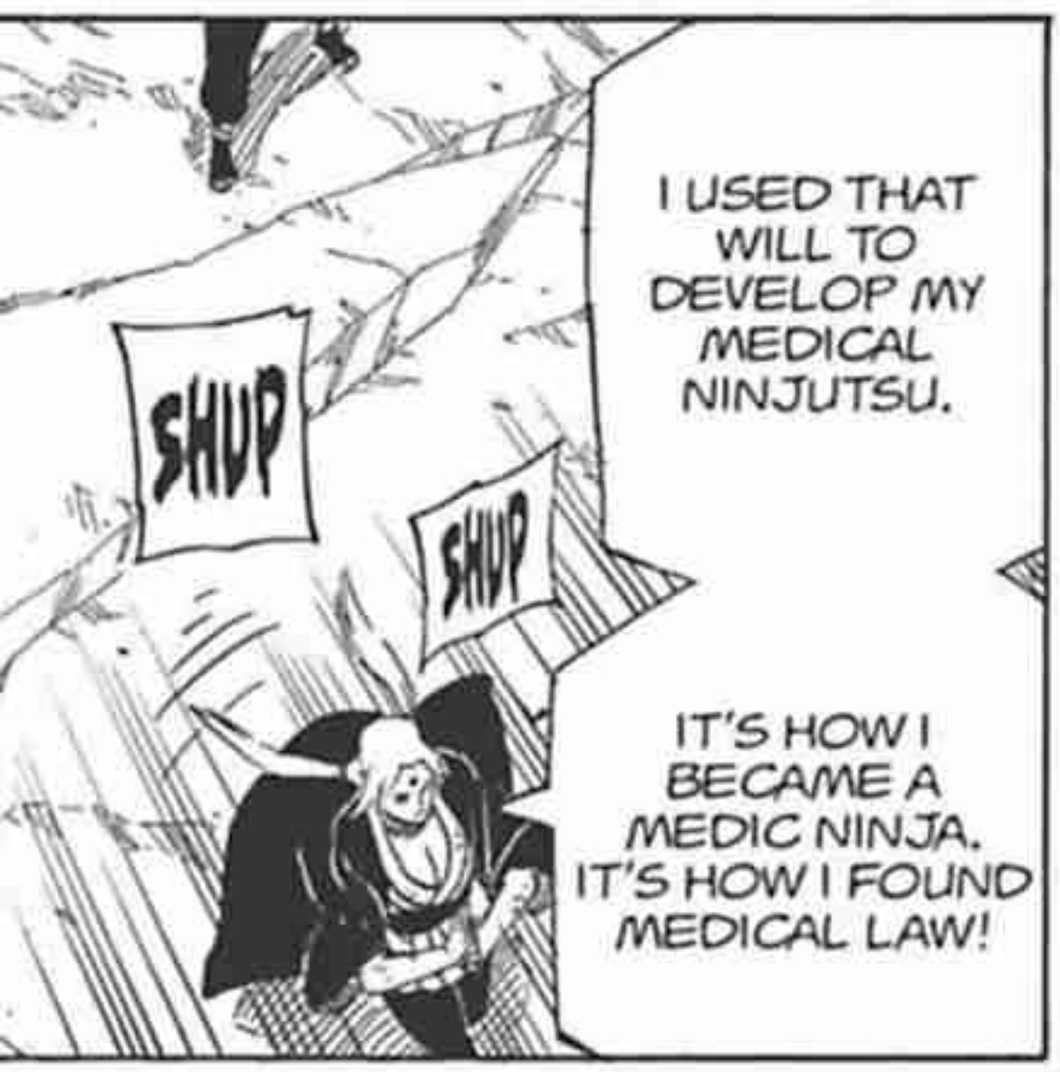


?
MY TRUE POWER LIES IN SOMETHING PASSED ON TO ME FROM THE LINE OF THE FIRST HOKAGE.
PHYSICAL STRENGTH ISN'T EVERY-THING.
MY TRUE POWER LIES IN THE WILL OF FIRE!!
FSH


N333...

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH HASHIRAMA'S WILL OF FIRE?

Number 577: Hate Blade



SHUN
?!
!
!
!
NEVER HEARD OF IT...
...100 HEALINGS ...?
...100 HEALINGS, MAY BREAK THE FIRST THREE LAWS!
RULE FOUR: A MEDIC NINJA WHO MASTERS THE NINJA ART OF MITOTIC REGEN-ERATION...

BUT THE ADDITION OF A SINGLE MEDIC NINJA WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING...

THE PARTICLE STYLE JUTSU MAY HAVE DISSIPATED THE POLLEN...

IT IS A FORBIDDEN JUTSU THAT ONLY APPLIES TO ME.

I AM THE ONLY MEDIC NINJA ALLOWED TO DO BATTLE!!

FIO

SS

FOUR WASN'T WORKING, SO WE'LL TRY FIVE!

I AM **NOT** AN ORDINARY MEDIC NINJA!

FSS

SH

KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK

...BUT HER POWER, GREATER.

SHE'S SLOWER THAN THE RAIKAGE.

CREAK CREAK

FIRE STYLE! MAJESTIC DEMOLISHER FLAME!!

FIRE STYLE! MAJESTIC DEMOLISHER FLAME!!

WATER STYLE! WATER PILLAR!!

FFFFZZZZZZ

GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB

FOLLOWED BY... WATER STYLE! WATER DRAGON MISSILE!!

SWISH
SH
SH
KRAK
WHAK
WEIGHTED BOULDER! LATERAL BOLT OF PAIN!! CHOP!!!
TH
OK

THAT'S IF I DIE.
BUT IF YOU STEP IN AND DIE HERE, THEN ALL THE OTHERS DIE BECAUSE OF YOU.
SINCE YOU'LL NOT BE ABLE TO HEAL THEM.
TMP

YOU SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOUR UNDERLINGS HOW TO RESURRECT YOU, AS I HAVE DONE.
HASHIRAMA... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU LEFT THEM...
...BUT THIS... THIS FALLS FAR SHORT OF YOUR ABILITIES.

BAM
FSH

ALL THAT'S REALLY LEFT OF YOU IS THE LIFE FORCE OF YOUR CELLS THAT CLING TO ME.

RAAA
KA

YOU... CERTAINLY AREN'T WEAK, WOMAN.

TH
K

KRAK
KRAK

YOU'RE WRONG !!

ALL THAT'S LEFT OF MY LITTLE BROTHER IS THE OCULAR POWER OF HIS EYES, WHICH ARE NOW MINE.

...IS HATE.

THE ONLY THING PASSED DOWN...

THE HOKAGE, LADY TSUNADE, HAS JOINED THE BATTLE!

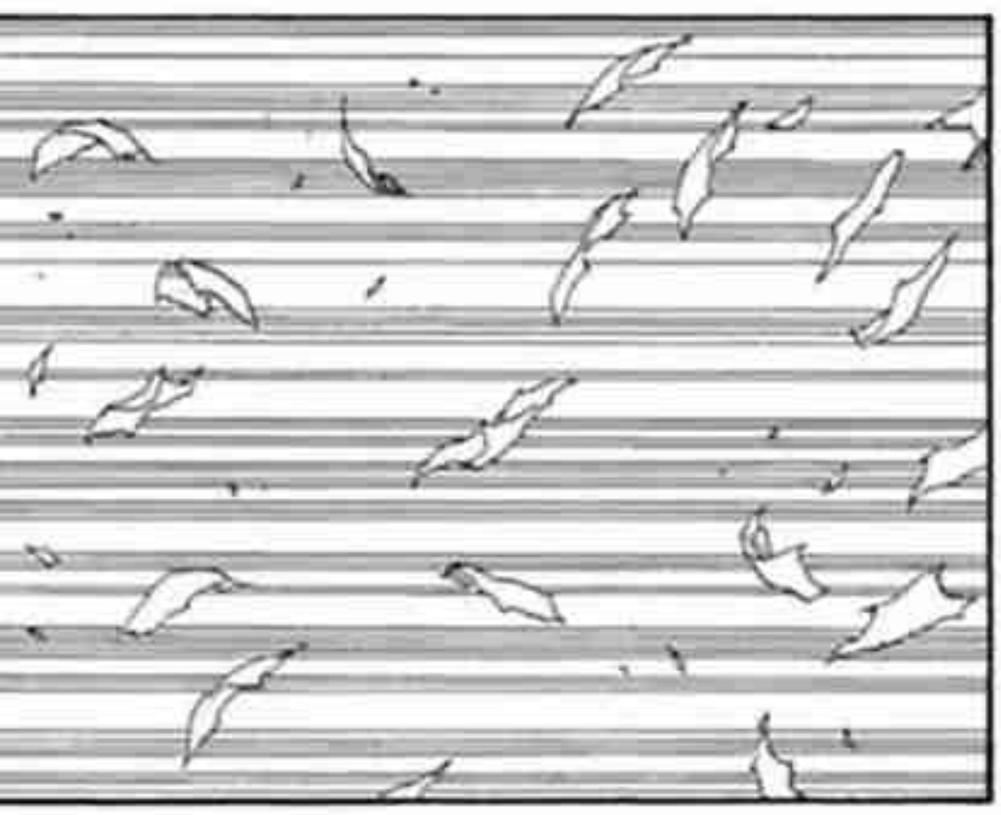
NOW THAT THE REAL MADARA HAS SHOWN UP, THE FIVE KAGE NEED TO STOP MESSING AROUND.

WHAT?! MADARA WAS BROUGHT BACK WITH EDOTENSEI?!

TSUNADE...
...

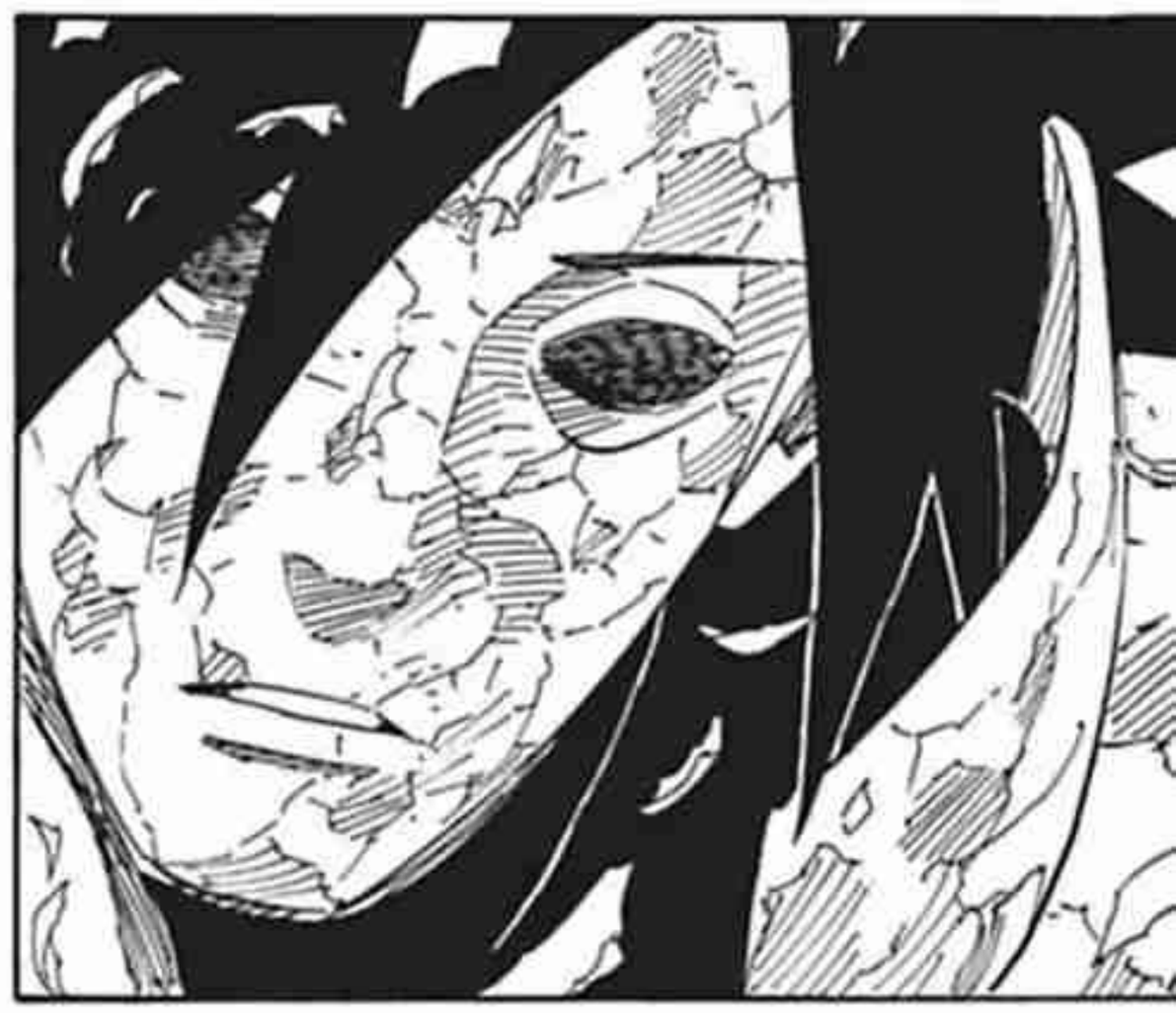
WELL, LADY TSUNADE WENT THROUGH QUITE A LOT AFTER YOUR PASSING...
DID I NEGLECT TO TELL YOU?
BUT IN THE END, SHE DID IT AS A TRIBUTE TO YOU!

TSUNADE IS HOKAGE...?!
?!!
SHE... BECAME HOKAGE?!



THAT'S WHY SHE'S LIVED THIS LONG, EVEN AMONG THE SHINOBI THREE!!
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR LADY TSUNADE TO LOSE!

BAKO



VOOSH

KAZEKAGE!! NOW!!

WHAM

OVW

SEALED HIM!

NICE!!

THO M

GRAND SAND MAUSOLEUM!

!!

!!

MY OCULAR POWERS MADE ME THE ONLY SHINOBI...

...TO EVER SEE THROUGH THAT POWERFUL RUSE.

HASHIRAMA'S WOOD DOPPEL-GANGER!

FSSSH...

PLINK...

NOW... FOR THE REST OF YOU KAGE!

FSSSH...

FSSSH...

YOUR ONLY HOPE AT STOPPING HIM IS TO STOP THE ONE WHO CAST THE EDOTENSEI!!

DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE MADARA!

...IS THE LATE FIRST LORD HOKAGE!

EVEN AGAINST THE FIVE KAGE FACING HIM?

MADARA... IS THAT POWERFUL A SHINOBI?

THE ONLY SHINOBI WHO CAN BRING HIM DOWN...

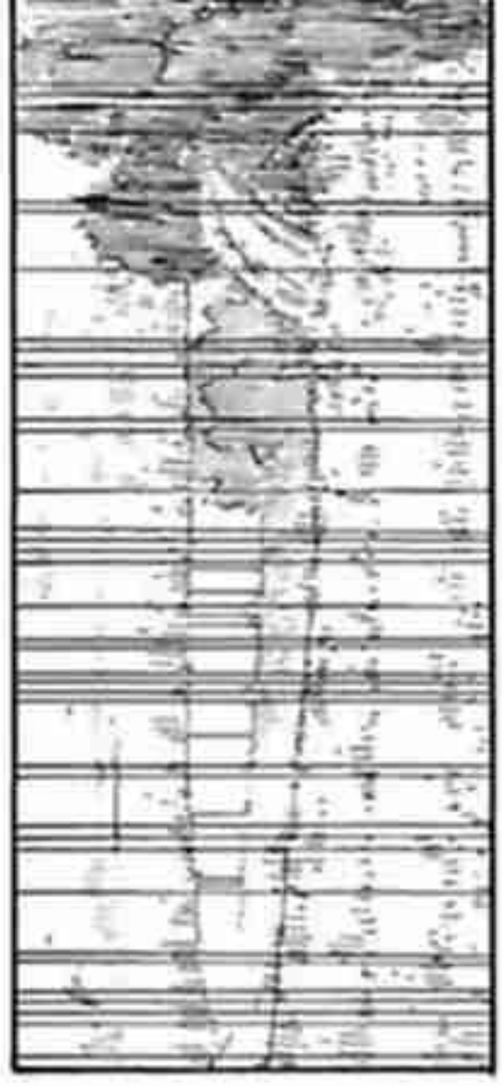
MY GUARD AND MY BARRIER MAINTAINER STAY HERE. EVERYONE ELSE, GO AFTER THE EDOTENSEI CASTER!

THEY'VE BEEN DEVOTING ALL THEIR ENERGY TO IT, BUT WE'VE HAD NO GOOD INTEL...

WHAT HAS HQ BEEN DOING ABOUT IT?!

...

KUCHIYOSE SUMMONING!



DON'T DIE... TSUNADE...
...!

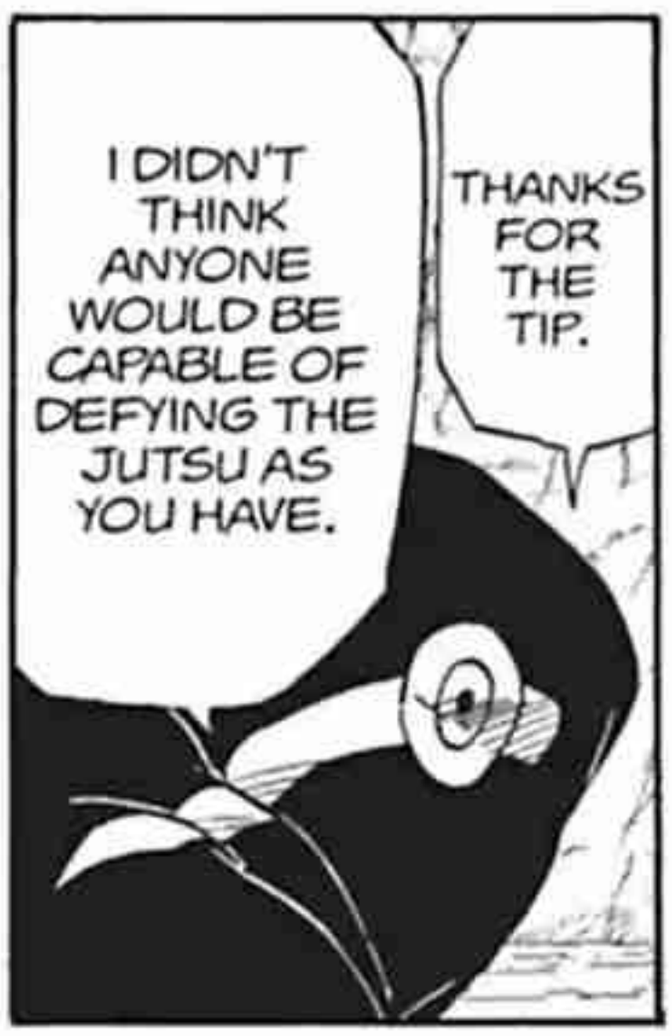
!!

YOU STAY HERE.

BOM

UNH!
Kp
!!

!!


I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF DEFYING THE JUTSU AS YOU HAVE.
THANKS FOR THE TIP.

THAT... IS ANOTHER RISK OF THIS JUTSU... THOUGH YOU WON'T SURVIVE TO REMEMBER THAT FOR NEXT TIME.
WHILE YOU WERE CONTROLLING ME... I WAS ABLE TO CLEARLY PINPOINT WHERE YOUR CHAKRA WAS COMING FROM.

...AND FIND THIS PLACE.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU WERE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH MY BARRIER...

YOU CANNOT KILL ME.

IF I DIE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP THE JUTSU.

?

WELL, IF WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT... THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW.

THIS EDOTENSEI JUTSU WILL NOT COME UNDONE EVEN IF YOU KILL ME...

BUT I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP IT.

LADY LUCK SMILES UPON ME!

A-HA HA HA!!

HEH HEH HEH...

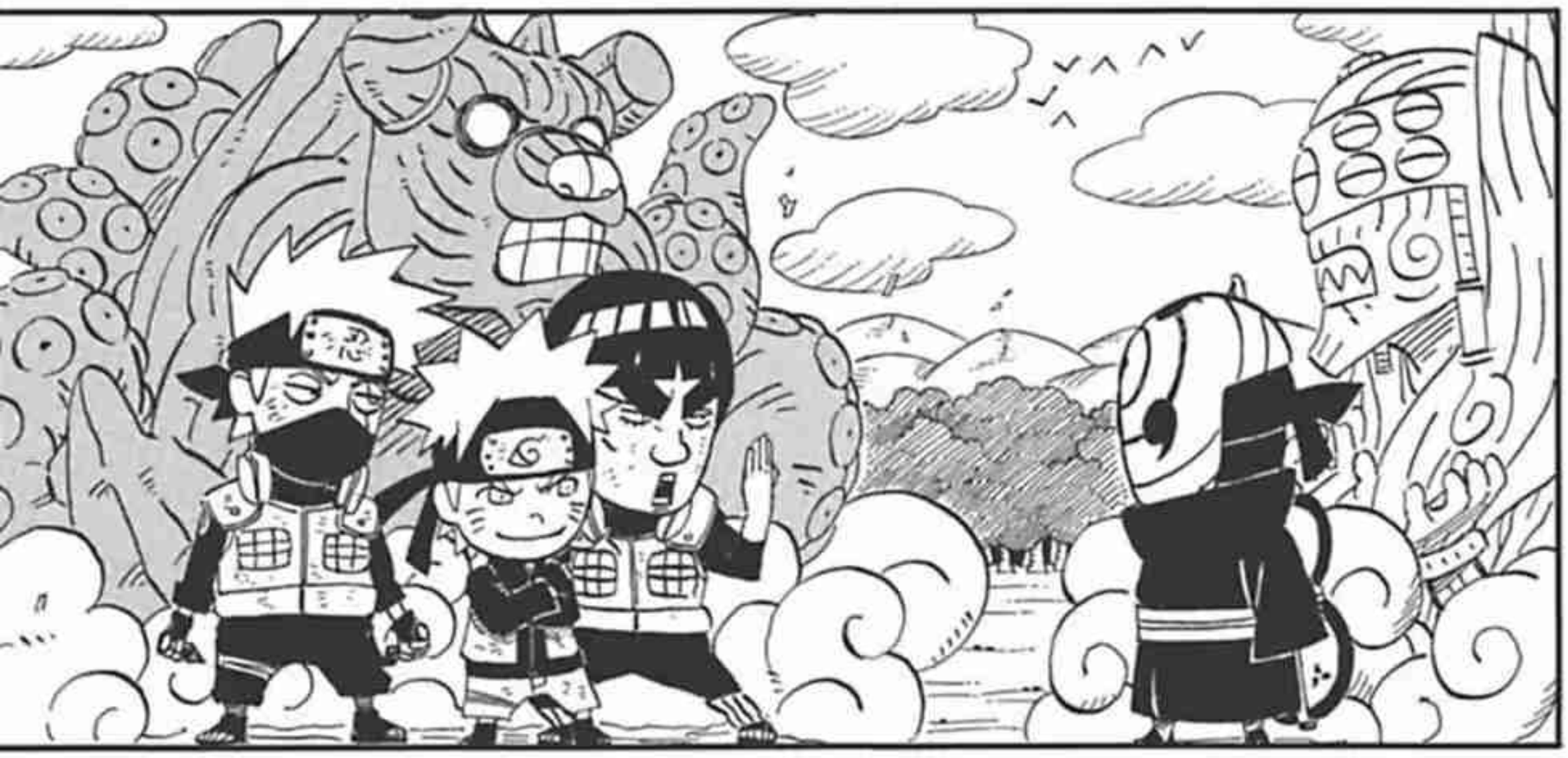
SLLLL

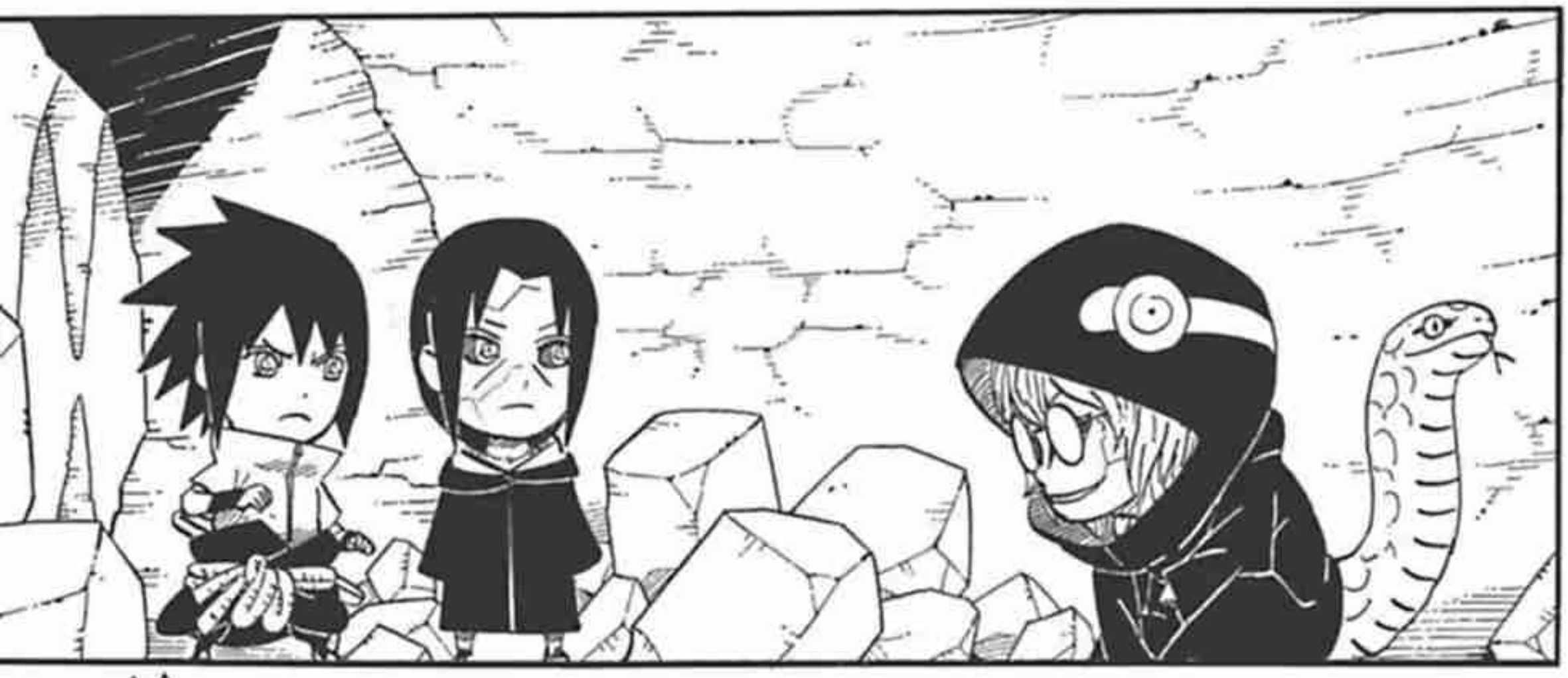
SIGH...

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS WE WISH THEM TO BE.

...

FSH...





Number 578: The Weak Point of Despair!!

WHOOOOOOO

!
KRUNCH

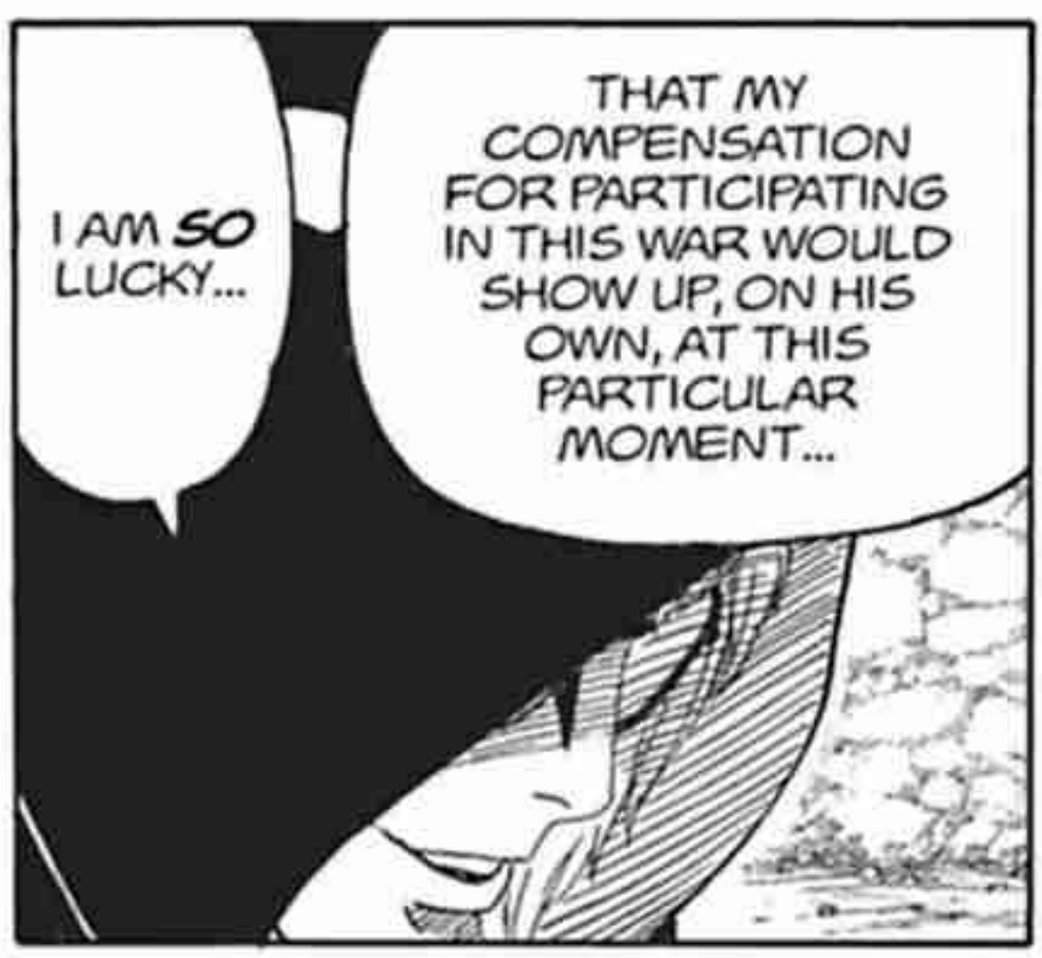
WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS PLACE...
I'VE CAUGHT UP!
SHUP...

SLLL...

THAT VOICE ...!
...!

FSH...
OROCHIMARU ...?!
HEH HEH... CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE...

GRRRR
...


I AM SO LUCKY...
THAT MY COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS WAR WOULD SHOW UP, ON HIS OWN, AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT...

KABUTO ...!

FSH
GO AHEAD... I'LL MAKE YOU STOP THE EDOTENSEI WHILE YOU DO...
THIS JUTSU HAS NO WEAKNESSES... NOR ANY RISKS...

?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING, MEETING HERE...?
IT'S RATHER COMPLI-CATED... BUT ALLOW ME TO TRY TO EXPLAIN...

NOW THEN... WHO SHALL I TAKE OUT NEXT?
SHUP

CON-VERSELY ...
IF YOU RUSH, YOU MAY NOT SUCCEED EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE...

...EVEN IF YOU DO MAKE A MOVE, I DOUBT SASUKE WILL JUST QUIETLY STAND BACK AND WATCH...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT, ITACHI... AND BESIDES...

?!
YAAAAAH !!!!
THUK
SWOP
WHUP
WAP

!!
!!
!!
!!

UNH!!
G-G-
BAM
SL
AM
...?!

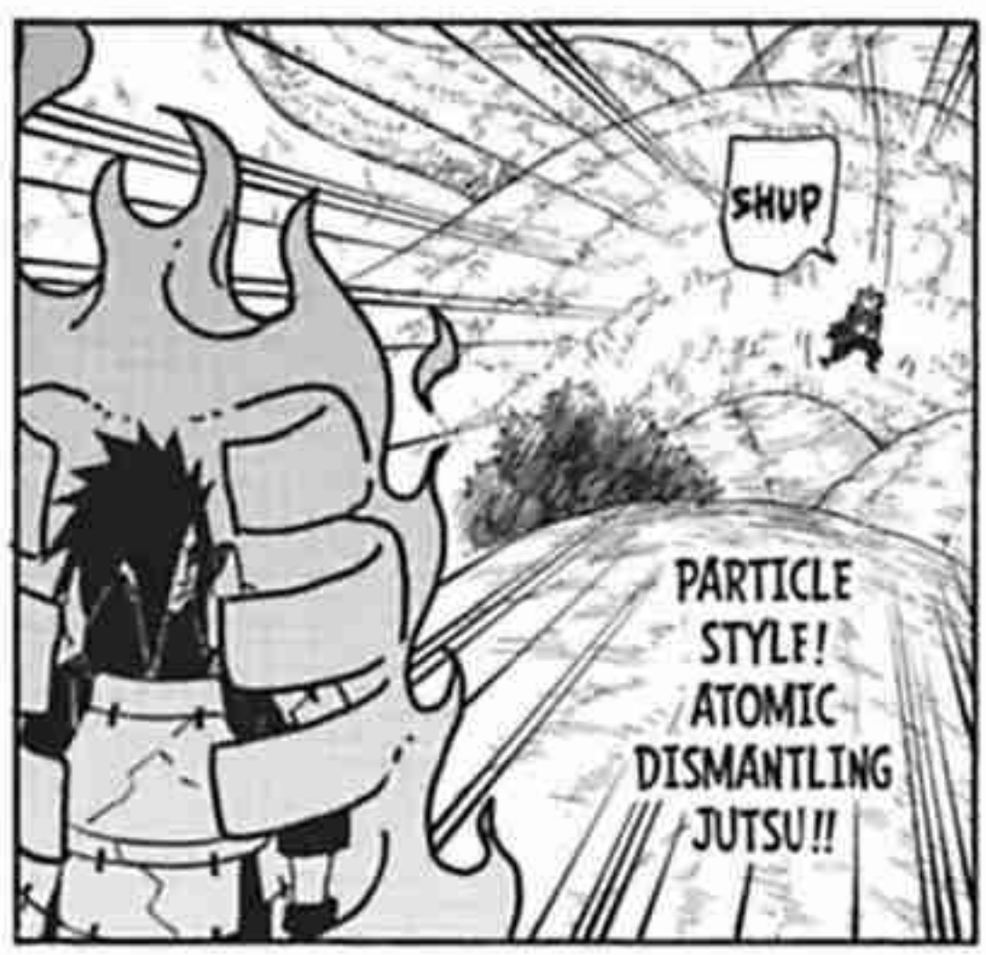
FSSSS

FSSSS...
KLATTER
KLATTER

I'D HOPED TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD WITH THIS, BUT...

REGENERATION WITHOUT WEAVING SIGNS... I SEE, SO THAT'S THE TRUE NATURE OF YOUR JUTSU THAT IS RULE FOUR..
IT'S JUST LIKE HASHIRAMA'S ABILITY...

FSSSS...


SHUP
PARTICLE STYLE! ATOMIC DISMANTLING JUTSU!!

FOOSH

VWW...
YOU CAN'T KILL ME WITH MY OWN JUTSU.

KAKK
MY JUTSU CAN KILL YOU!

IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, YOU NEED TO HIT ME HARD, TAKE ME DOWN, THEN SEAL ME AWAY.
HAVE YOU GONE SENILE, OHNOKI? THE RINNEGAN CAN ABSORB ALL JUTSU... SO SUCH A NINJUTSU WILL NOT WORK ON ME.
BLZZZ

WELL DONE !!

?!

...BUT IT SEEMS I BOOSTED YOUR MORALE INSTEAD.

I WAS HOPING TO DOUSE YOUR MORALE...
OH, THAT...? I WANTED TO SHOW YOU HASHIRAMA'S FACE.

SO I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KILL YOU WITH IT!
BUT MY EARLIER JINTON (PARTICLE STYLE) SCRAPED OFF YOUR LEFT SHOULDER...

KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK

ART OF MULTIPLE WOOD DOPPEL-GANGERS!!

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

!!

賭

!!

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

!!

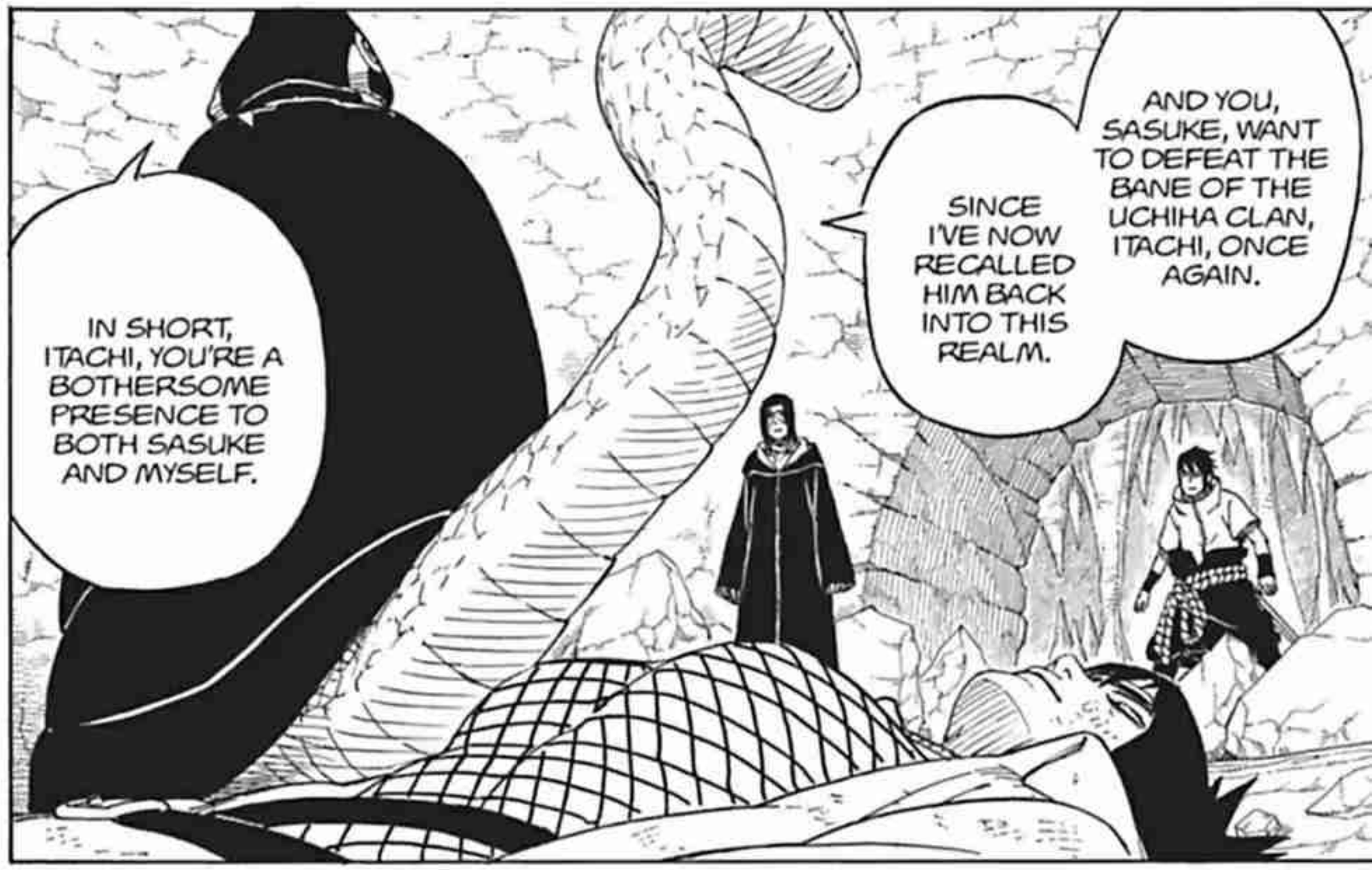
BAM BAM BAM BAM

BAM

BAM BAM BAM

...SO THAT'S THE TALE OF THE WAR.
...

WOULD YOU LIKE THESE DOPPELGANGERS TO USE SUSANO'O...
...OR NOT? YOUR CHOICE.


IN SHORT, ITACHI, YOU'RE A BOTHERSOME PRESENCE TO BOTH SASUKE AND MYSELF.
SINCE I'VE NOW RECALLED HIM BACK INTO THIS REALM.
AND YOU, SASUKE, WANT TO DEFEAT THE BANE OF THE UCHIHA CLAN, ITACHI, ONCE AGAIN.

I CAME HERE CHASING AFTER ITACHI IN ORDER TO TALK TO HIM.

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO CALL THAT THING "MASTER"... PLUS, IT SEEMS YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

...WELL, SHALL WE TEAM UP AND TAKE ITACHI DOWN TOGETHER, SASUKE?

WE DO BOTH SHARE THE SAME SNAKE POWER AND MASTER...

...

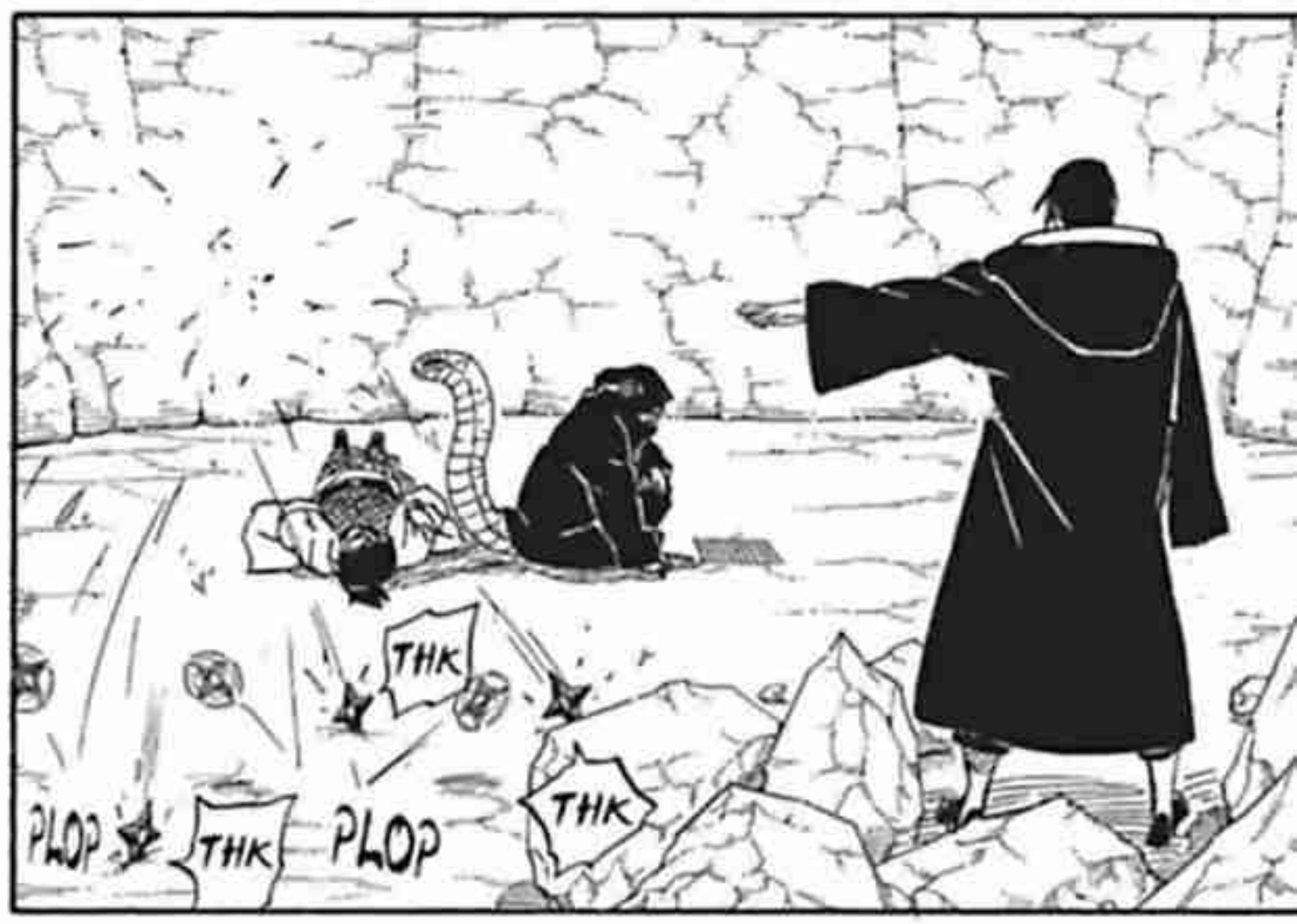
...WHOSE SIDE *ARE* YOU ON?

SO THEN...

...

KAH ACHK

AND HE'S YOUR ENEMY RIGHT NOW TOO, NO?!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
HE'S JUST LIKE OROCHIMARU... WHICH MAKES HIM MY ENEMY!


THK
THK
PLOP
THK
PLOP

BUT FIRST, WE NEED TO TAKE THIS ONE DOWN...
...I HEAR YOU, AND WE SHALL TALK LATER..
...WITHOUT KILLING HIM.

...

SO WE'LL START BY CASTING TSUKUYOMI UPON HIM AND FIND OUT HOW TO STOP THE JUTSU.

SHUP

IF YOU KILL AN EDOTENSEI CASTER, THE JUTSU CAN NEVER BE UNDONE.

?!

...

AND THEN I'LL MANIPULATE HIM INTO UNDOING THE JUTSU WHILE KEEPING HIM IN THE NIGHTMARE REALM!

...?

THIS JUTSU'S WEAKNESS AND RISK...

EVERY JUTSU HAS A WEAK POINT.

IT'LL HOPEFULLY GO AS SMOOTHLY AS YOU SAY, BUT I TOLD YOU, THIS JUTSU HAS NEITHER ANY WEAKNESSES NOR ANY RISKS...

THANKS FOR THE CLEAR PLAY-BY-PLAY...

SSSH...

...IS ME!

...

SO THIS TIME, FOR SURE--
ITACHI... YOU'VE KEPT LYING TO ME, TELLING ME NEXT TIME OR LATER BUT THEN DYING ON ME...
SHUP

...

I PLAN TO HONOR IT.

THEY SAY YOU TAKE YOUR PERSONALITY WITH YOU TO THE GRAVE... THEN AGAIN, I'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE...

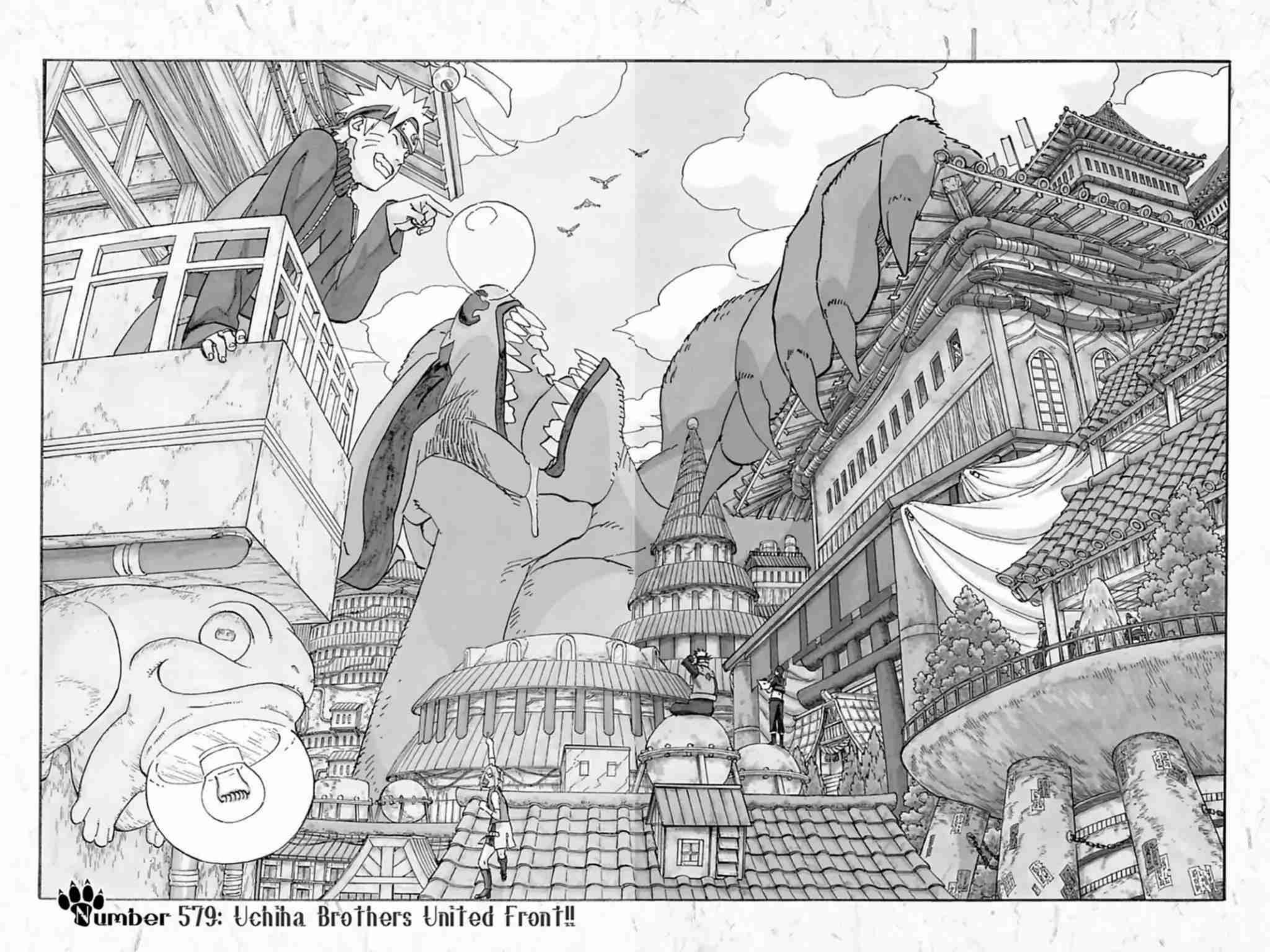
...I'M HOLDING YOU TO YOUR PROMISE!

SHUP...

WHO WOULDA THOUGHT.

SLITHER...

THE ESTRANGED BROTHERS COME TOGETHER AT LAST... TO GANG UP ON ME!



Number 579: Uchiha Brothers United Front!!

NARUTO
ーナルトー

DON'T STARE AT ME. I'D RATHER BE IN THE BACKGROUND PLOTTING.
SHOOF

FSH

A COUNTER-MEASURE AGAINST GENJUTSU, HUH...

SLLLL
FLLL

...

THEY'RE ABLE TO SENSE EXACTLY WHERE WE ARE...

THE WAY THOSE SNAKES ARE MOVING...

SNAKES PERCEIVE BODY HEAT AND CAN SMELL THE AIR WITH THEIR TONGUES.

I CHOSE THIS BATTLEFIELD. NATURE IS MY ALLY.

ZWW

HA! BEING A SNAKE EXPERT WILL *NOT* HELP YOU TAKE *ME* DOWN!

ZWW

YOU'VE STUDIED A LOT... YOU'RE LIKE A SNAKE EXPERT NOW.

OF COURSE I DID... I HAD TO TAKE DOWN OROCHIMARU, DIDN'T I?

...OH NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

TRAPS?

ZWOO

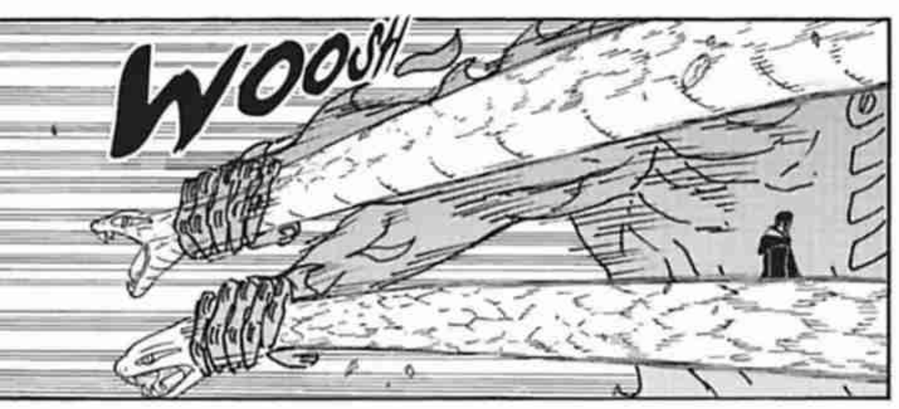
THERE ARE GOING TO BE TRAPS, SASUKE!

THE TERRAIN GIVES HIM AN ADVANTAGE!

THEY'RE BIGGER ?!

?

BAM


WOOSH

THE HOOD!
SASUKE!

HE HAS THE POWER OF OROCHIMARU!
FSH

HE'S NOT GOING TO DIE EASY!

SUSANO'O, EH?!

SLOOSH

TOO AGGRESSIVE, SASUKE! REMEMBER DON'T KILL HIM!

WIP

!!
!!

WAP

SSSSSH

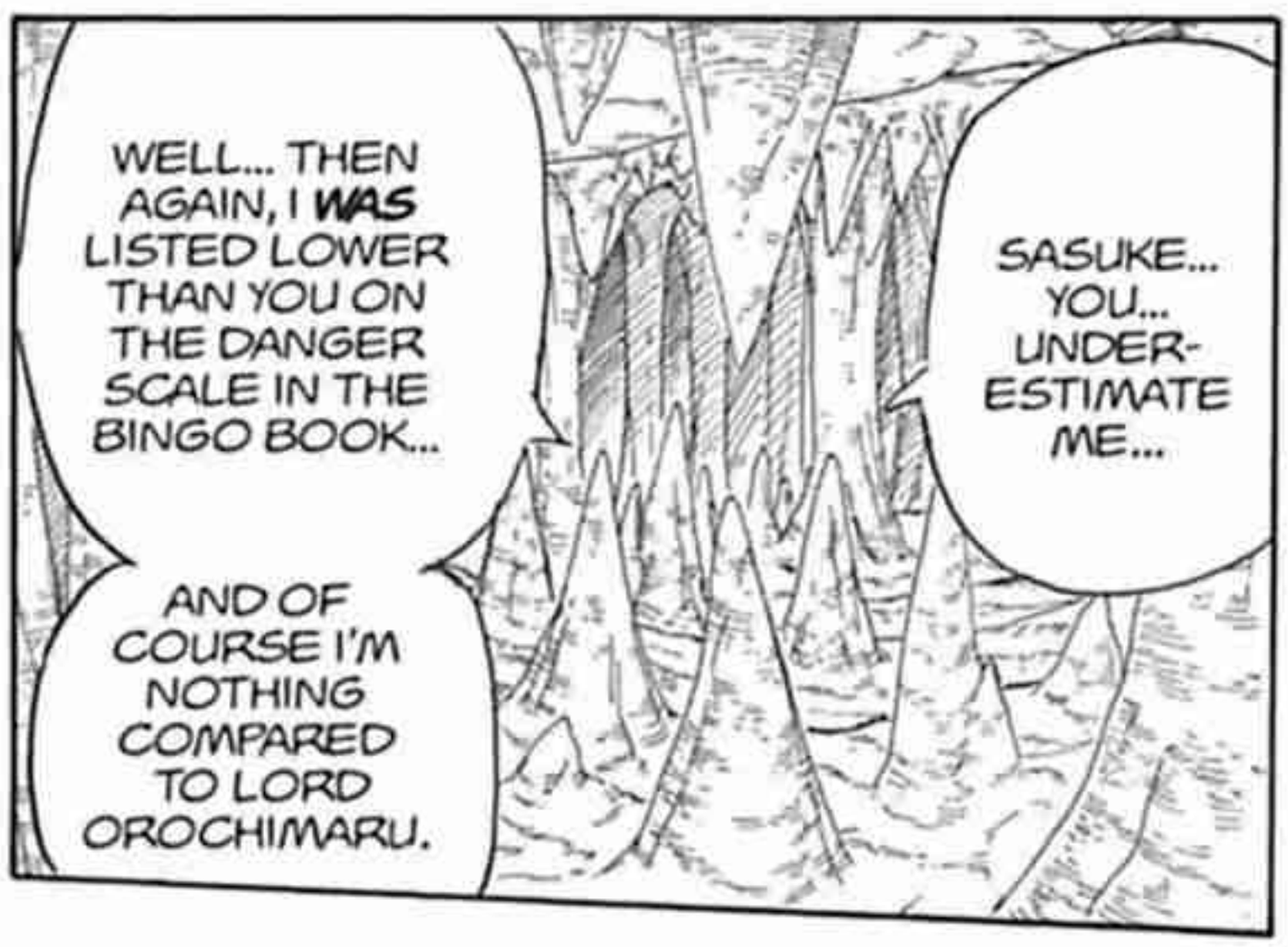
SLLLLLLLL

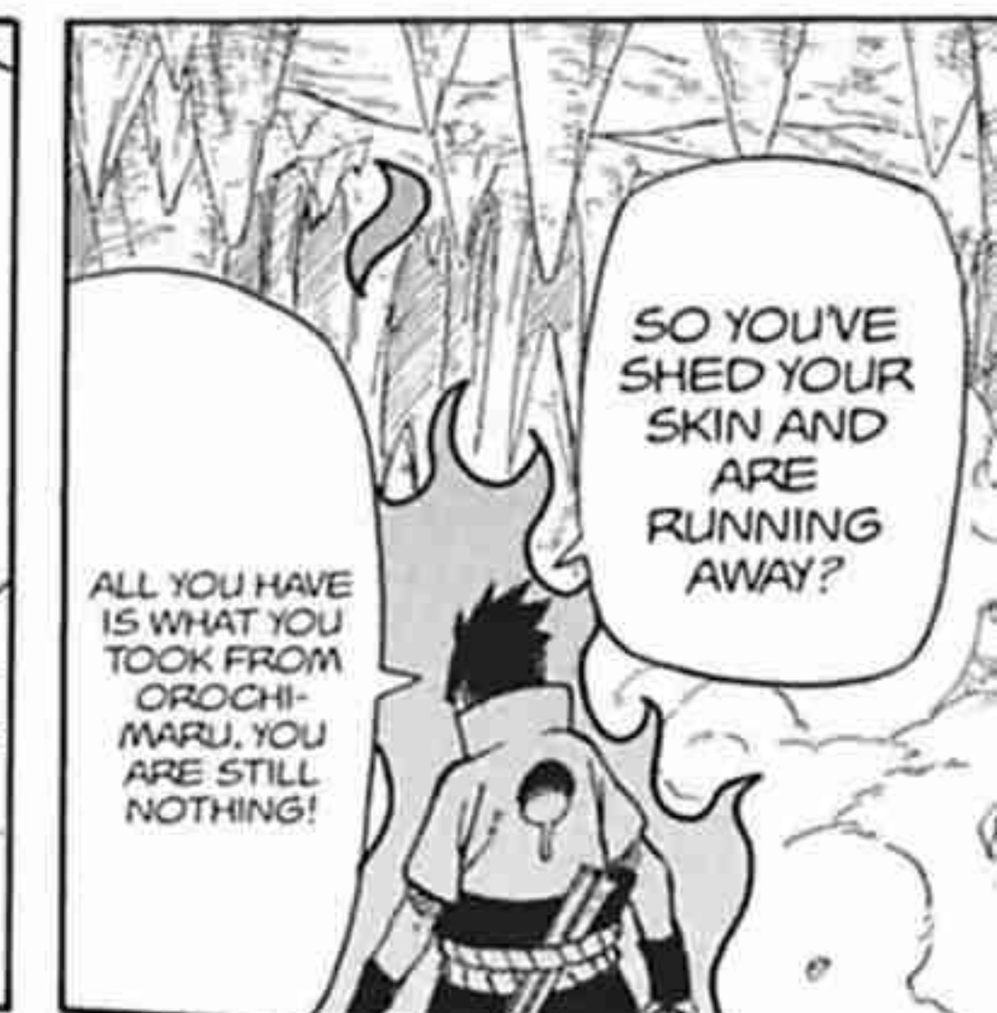
SLLLLLLLL

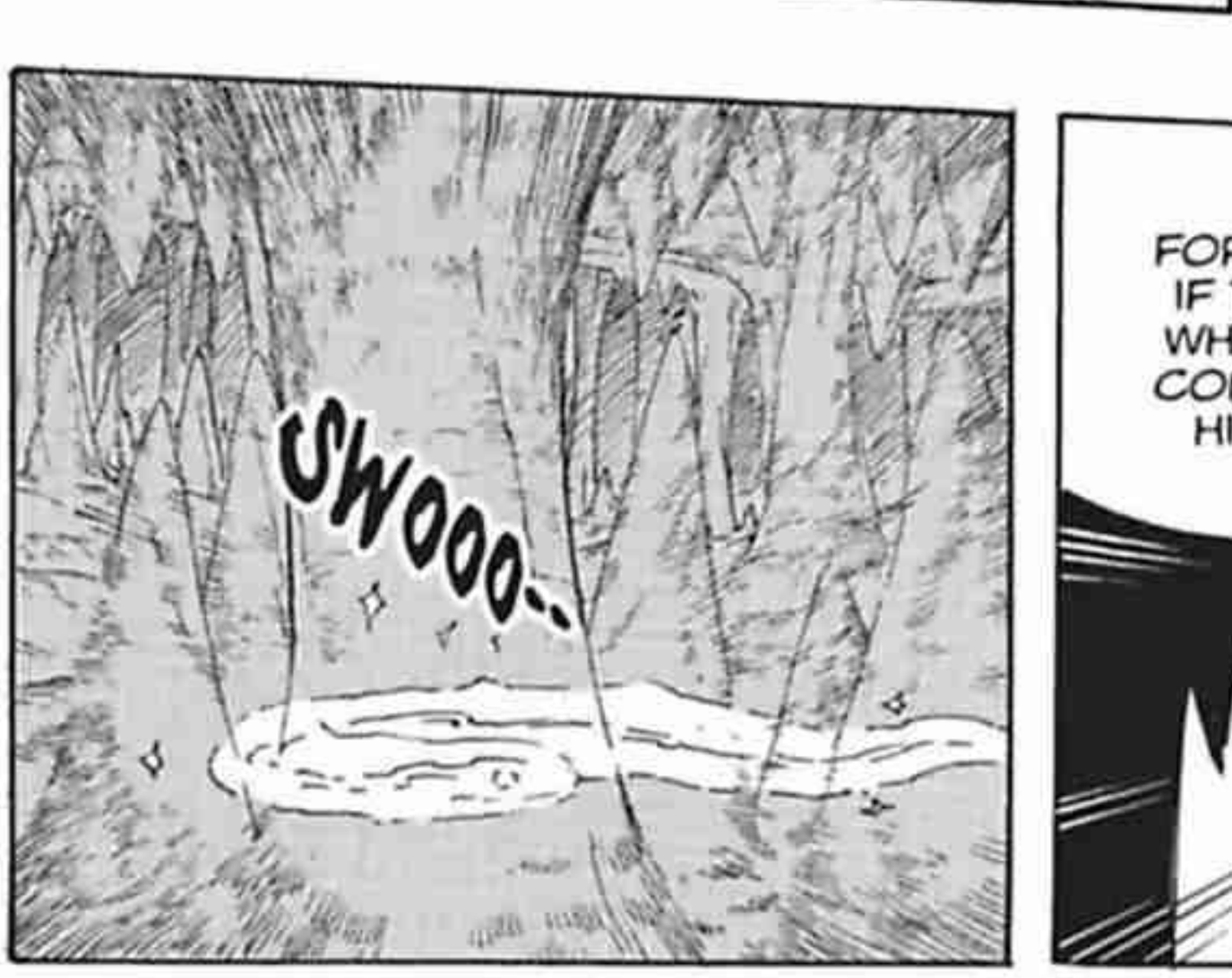
SLLLLLLLL

...

ZWOO
FIRST YOU HIDE YOUR FACE, AND NOW YOUR ENTIRE BODY?
YOU'RE TAKING THIS BEHIND-THE-SCENES-MASTERMIND THING A LITTLE TOO FAR, KABUTO!

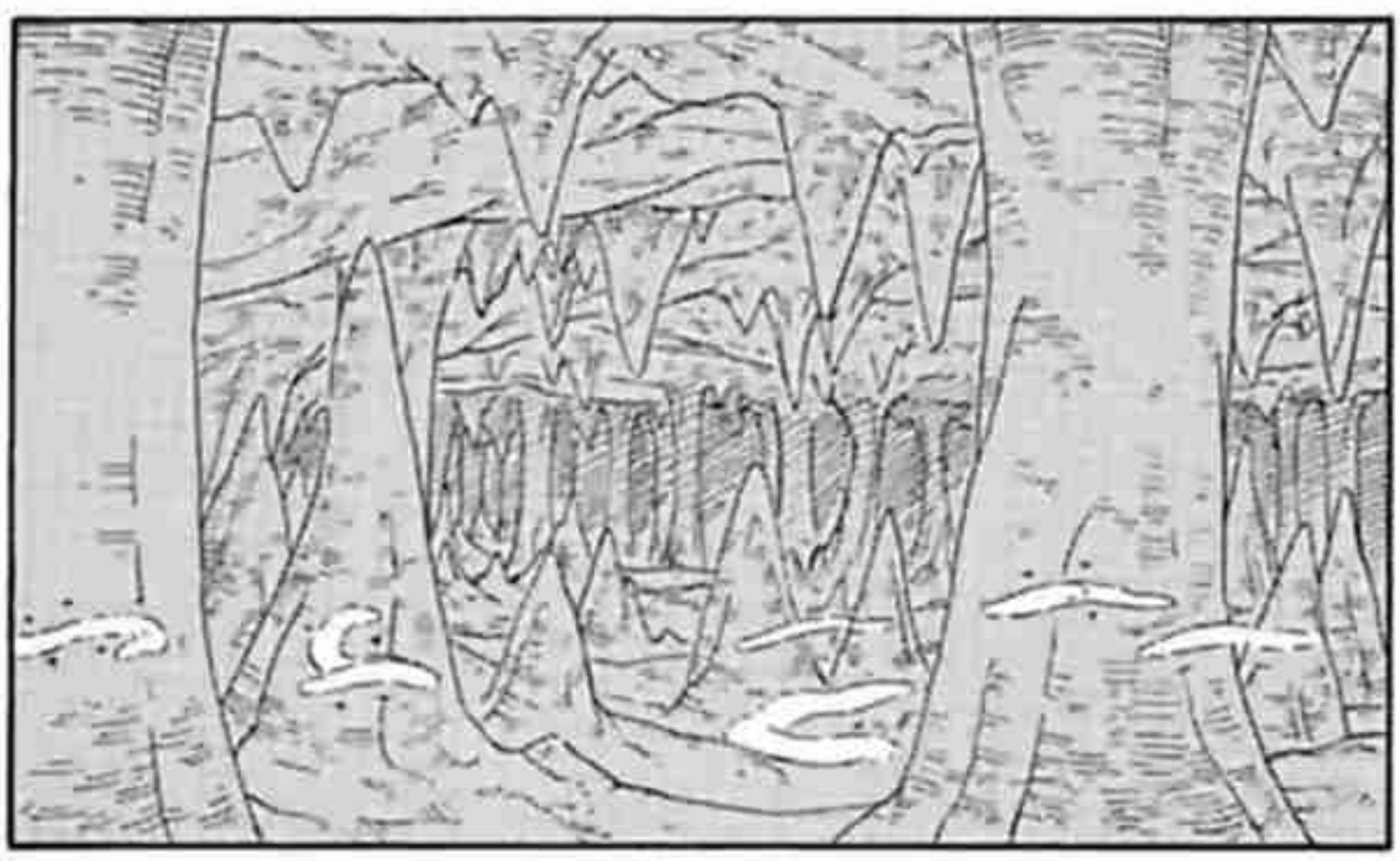

WELL... THEN AGAIN, I WAS LISTED LOWER THAN YOU ON THE DANGER SCALE IN THE BINGO BOOK...
AND OF COURSE I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO LORD OROCHIMARU.
SASUKE... YOU... UNDER-ESTIMATE ME...

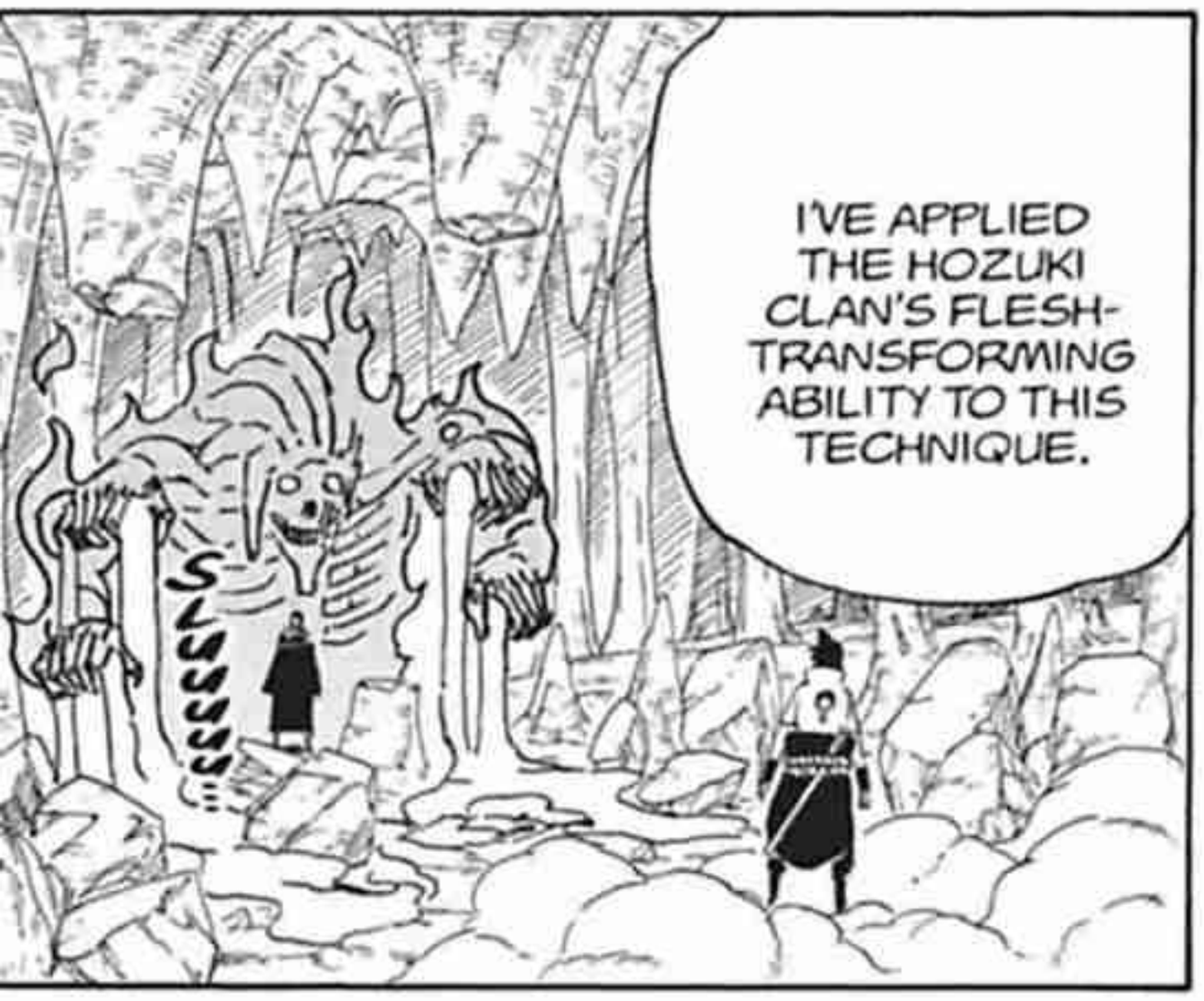

ALL YOU HAVE IS WHAT YOU TOOK FROM OROCHI-MARU. YOU ARE STILL NOTHING!
SO YOU'VE SHED YOUR SKIN AND ARE RUNNING AWAY?


SWOOO...

FOR SURE, IF THIS IS WHAT YOU CONSIDER HIDING.
...
SHKEEN

BE CAREFUL, SASUKE.
THERE ARE PIECES OF HIS CHAKRA EVERYWHERE... AND NO TELLING WHICH OF THEM IS THE REAL HIM.




I'VE APPLIED THE HOZUKI CLAN'S FLESH-TRANSFORMING ABILITY TO THIS TECHNIQUE.
SSSSSS...

TO DETACH AND SEPARATE USING ONE'S OWN LIFE SUBSTANCE... THAT'S WHY IT LOOKS LIKE A SHED.
IT'S THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM ONE'S FLESH INTO LIQUID.
SLUUUUU...
SLUUUUU...

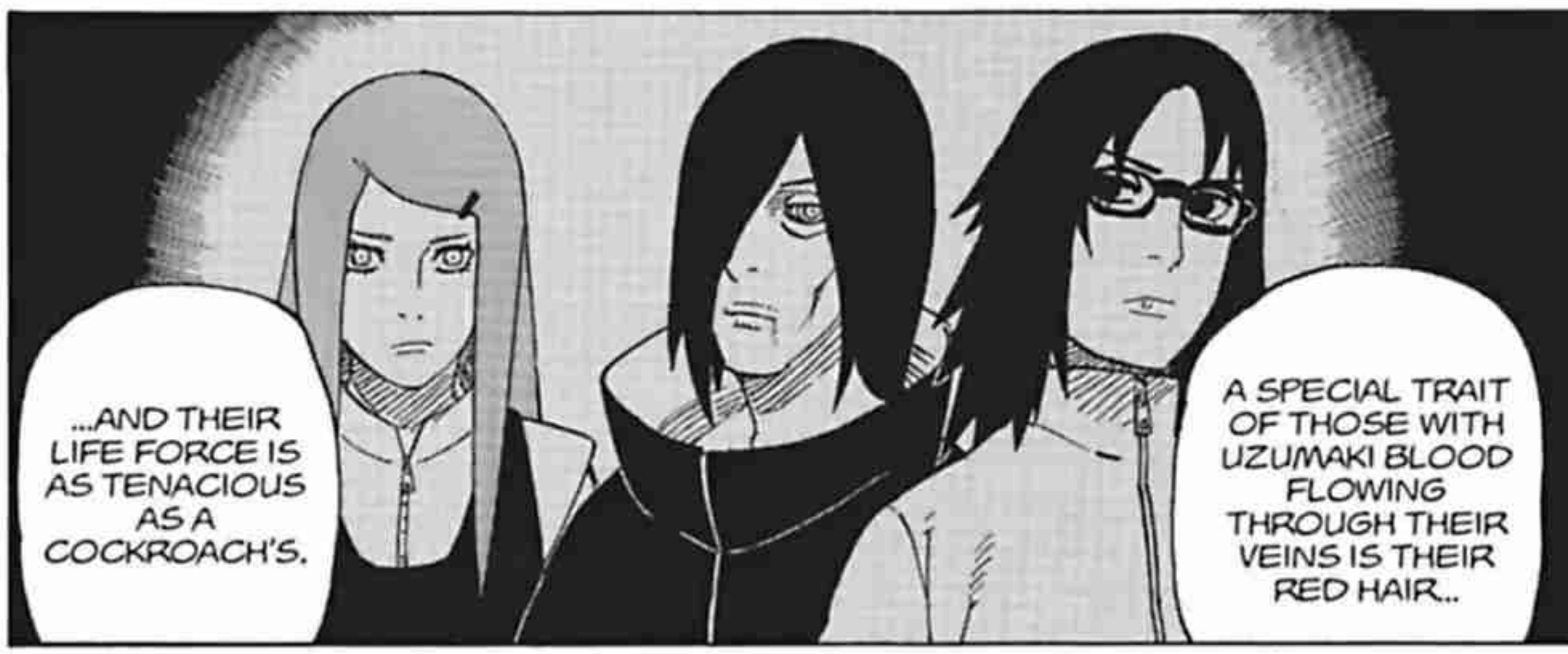
I COULD ALWAYS RECUPERATE QUICKLY.
SNNN...

HE CAN TRANSFORM FROM HUMAN TO WATER... BACK TO HUMAN AGAIN.
YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN, RIGHT? SUIGETSU.

A HEALING TECHNIQUE THAT I STUDIED FROM THE BODY OF A WOMAN ORIGINALLY OF THE UZUMAKI CLAN...
SZZZ

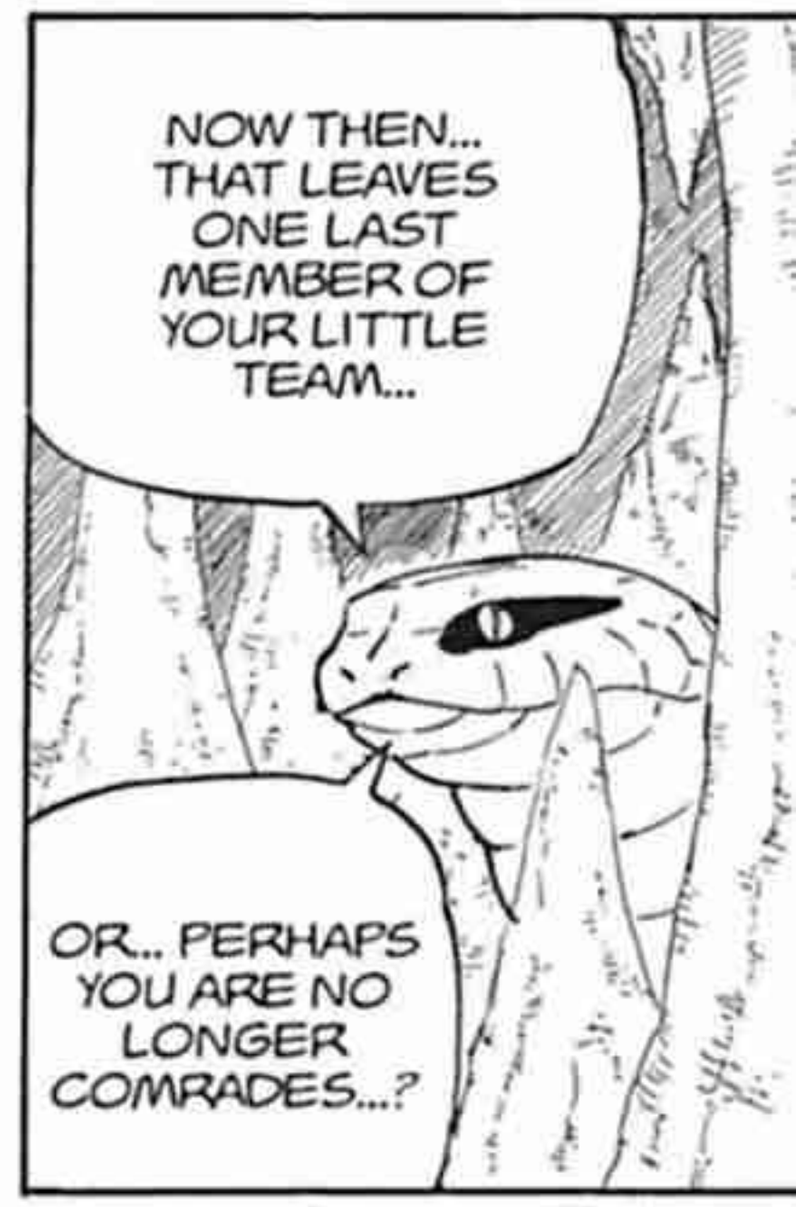
KARIN IS UZUMAKI?

SOMEONE YOU'RE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH...KARIN.


...AND THEIR LIFE FORCE IS AS TENACIOUS AS A COCKROACH'S.
A SPECIAL TRAIT OF THOSE WITH UZUMAKI BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH THEIR VEINS IS THEIR RED HAIR..

AT ANY RATE, YOU HAVE QUITE THE EXPERT EYE TO HAVE CHOSEN THOSE THREE...

...


NOW THEN... THAT LEAVES ONE LAST MEMBER OF YOUR LITTLE TEAM...
OR.. PERHAPS YOU ARE NO LONGER COMRADES...?

DO YOU HAVE JUGO'S ABILITIES TOO?

YOU TOOK THEM FROM OROCHIMARU'S CURSE MARK?

BUT THOSE WHO LACK TALENT CAN JUST STEAL IT FROM THOSE WHO HAVE IT!

IN THE SHINOBI WORLD, THOSE WITHOUT TALENT ARE NOTHING.

...?

NO...!

RYUCHI CAVE?!

THAT *POWER* I ACTUALLY MASTERED, MYSELF... AT RYUCHI CAVE.

NO. THAT IS JUST A TEMPORARY BOOST.

LORD OROCHIMARU IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE REACHED IT!

YES! I FOUND IT!

A PLACE AS LEGENDARY AS MOUNT MYOBOKU... AND THE SHIKKOTSU WOODS!

SLOOOOOO

?!

SLLL SLLL

龍地洞

I TRAINED UNDER THE WHITE SNAKE SAGE AND AWAKENED THIS ABILITY!

I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO SURPASS OROCHI-MARU!

SLOOOOO

G~G~

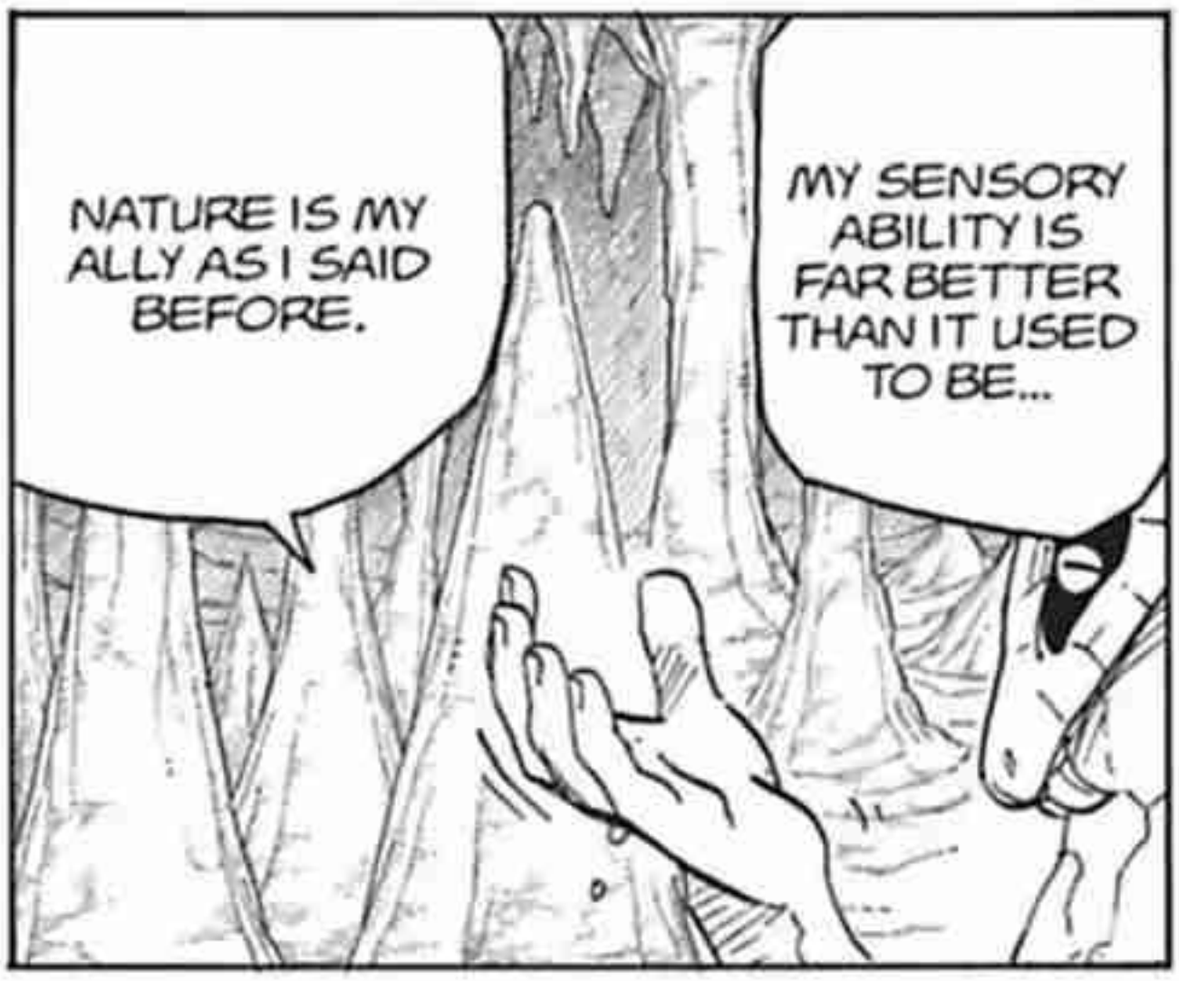
ZWOO...

THUD

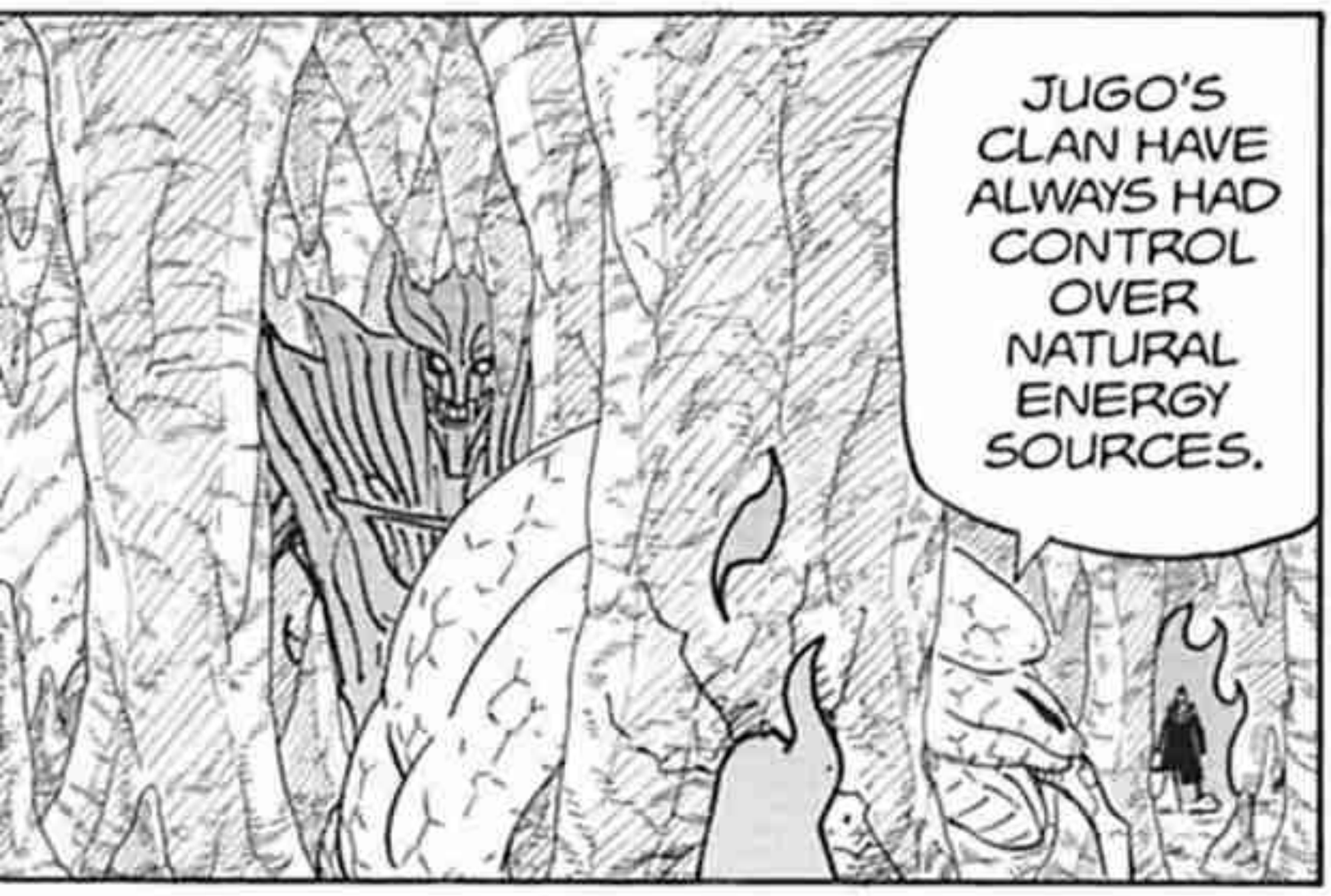
KRAK

TSK, TSK.

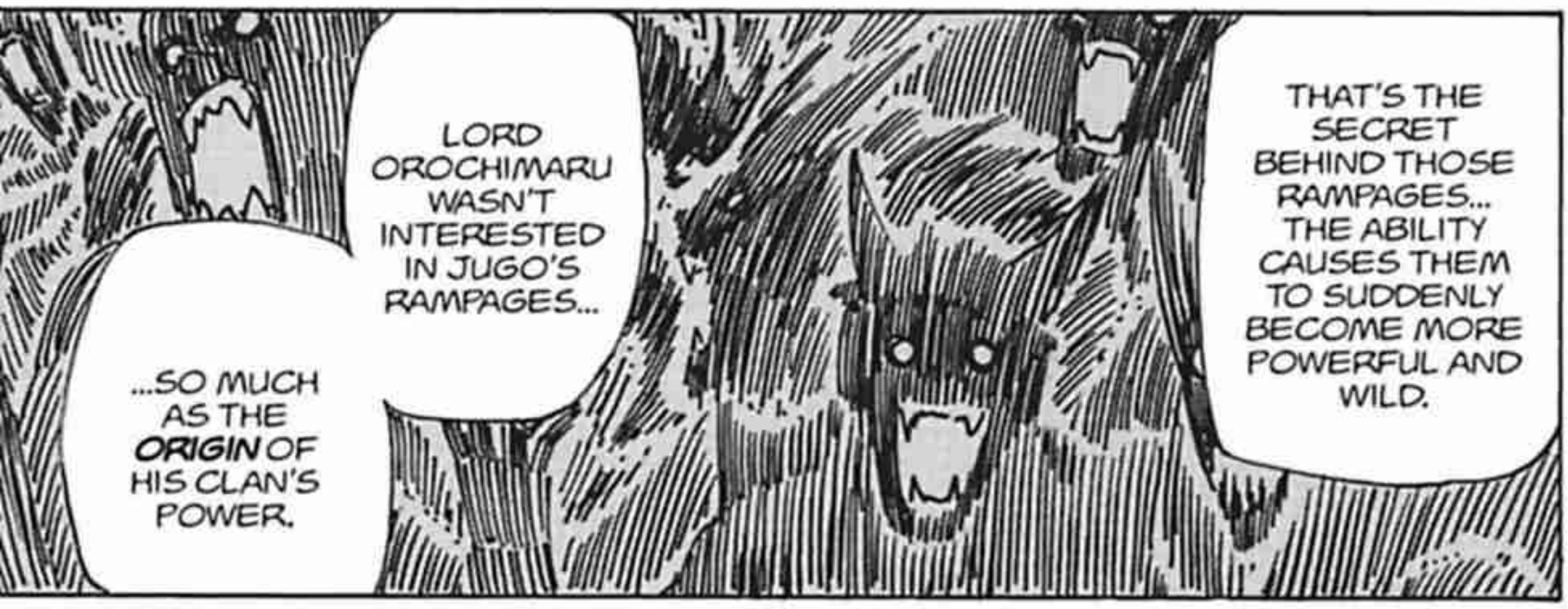
FP FP


NATURE IS MY ALLY AS I SAID BEFORE.
MY SENSORY ABILITY IS FAR BETTER THAN IT USED TO BE...

...THE SUSANO'O ARROW...?!
HE DODGED...


JUGO'S CLAN HAVE ALWAYS HAD CONTROL OVER NATURAL ENERGY SOURCES.

SO HE DOES HAVE...
NATURE...?


LORD OROCHIMARU WASN'T INTERESTED IN JUGO'S RAMPAGES...
...SO MUCH AS THE ORIGIN OF HIS CLAN'S POWER.
THAT'S THE SECRET BEHIND THOSE RAMPAGES... THE ABILITY CAUSES THEM TO SUDDENLY BECOME MORE POWERFUL AND WILD.

?!

BUT... HE DIDN'T YET POSSESS A BODY THAT COULD TOLERATE IT...
LORD OROCHIMARU IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO ACQUIRE THAT POWER...
FAP
THAT'S WHY...

...AND THAT WAS THE RYUCHI CAVE.
HE FINALLY TRACKED DOWN THE SOURCE OF THE POWER...

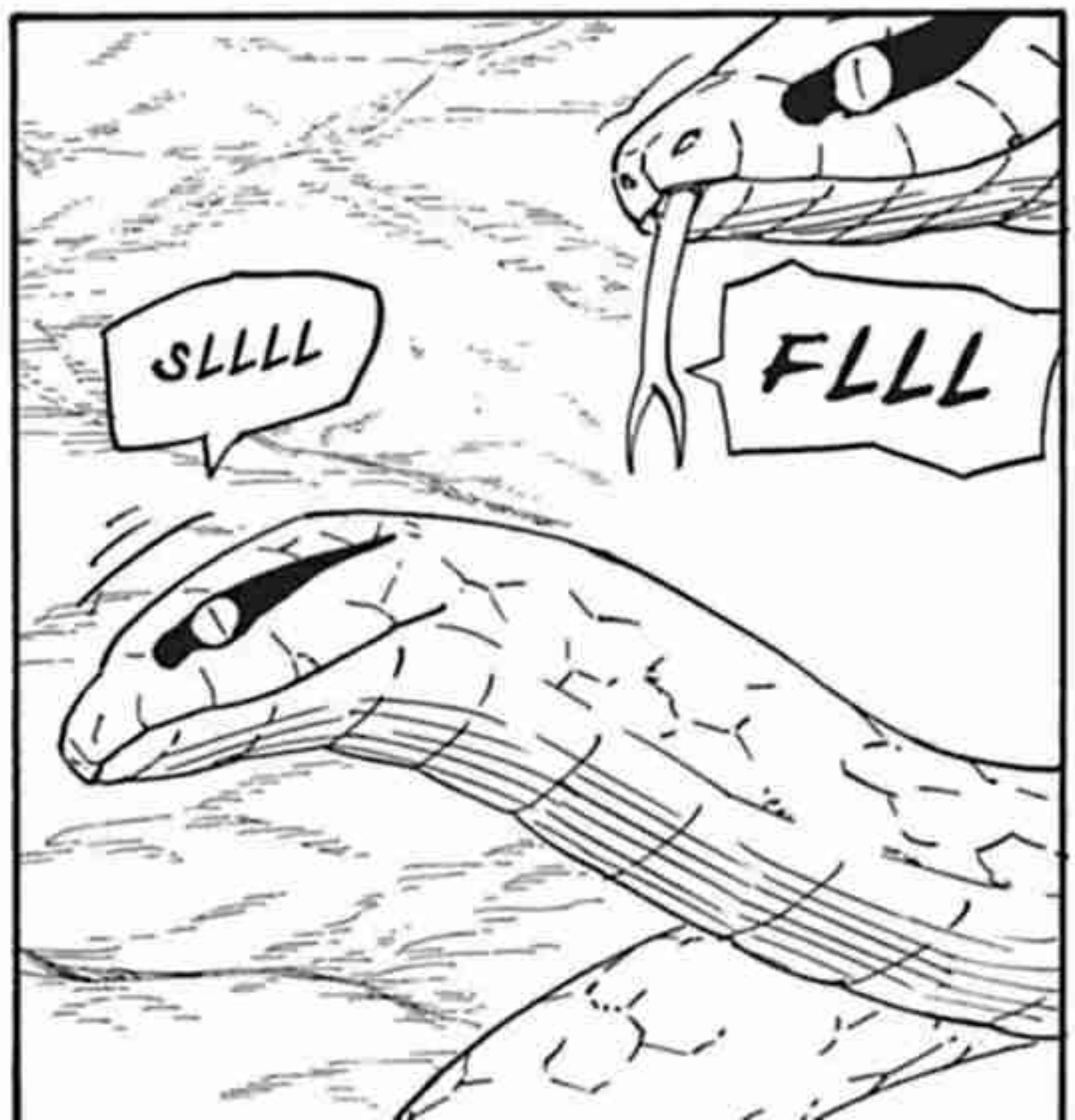
?!

HE COULDN'T BECOME THE PERFECT SAGE *THAT I HAVE BECOME!*

SAGE TECHNIQUE! WHITE EXTREME ATTACK!!

I AM A DRAGON !!

FWP


SLLLL
FLLL

Number 580: Siblings

SHOOF
SHLLOOO

FSH...

SHHHLOOOOO
SAGE TECHNIQUE! WHITE EXTREME ATTACK!!!

?!

!!
FOOSH

WHRRR RRR

FOOSH

A JUTSU THAT CAUSES THE AIR TO OSCILLATE, TO PARALYZE SENSES... FREEZING YOU IN PLACE...

LIGHT AND SOUND TO KNOCK OUT SIGHT AND HEARING...

MY EARS... THIS SOUND IS RATTLING MY BONES!

BY TURNING MY BODY TO LIQUID, I CAN ALSO SIMPLY FLOW WITH SOUND AND VIBRATION.

WITH MY SNAKE EYES, I CAN SHUT MY SIGHT OFF AND BLOCK THE LIGHT.

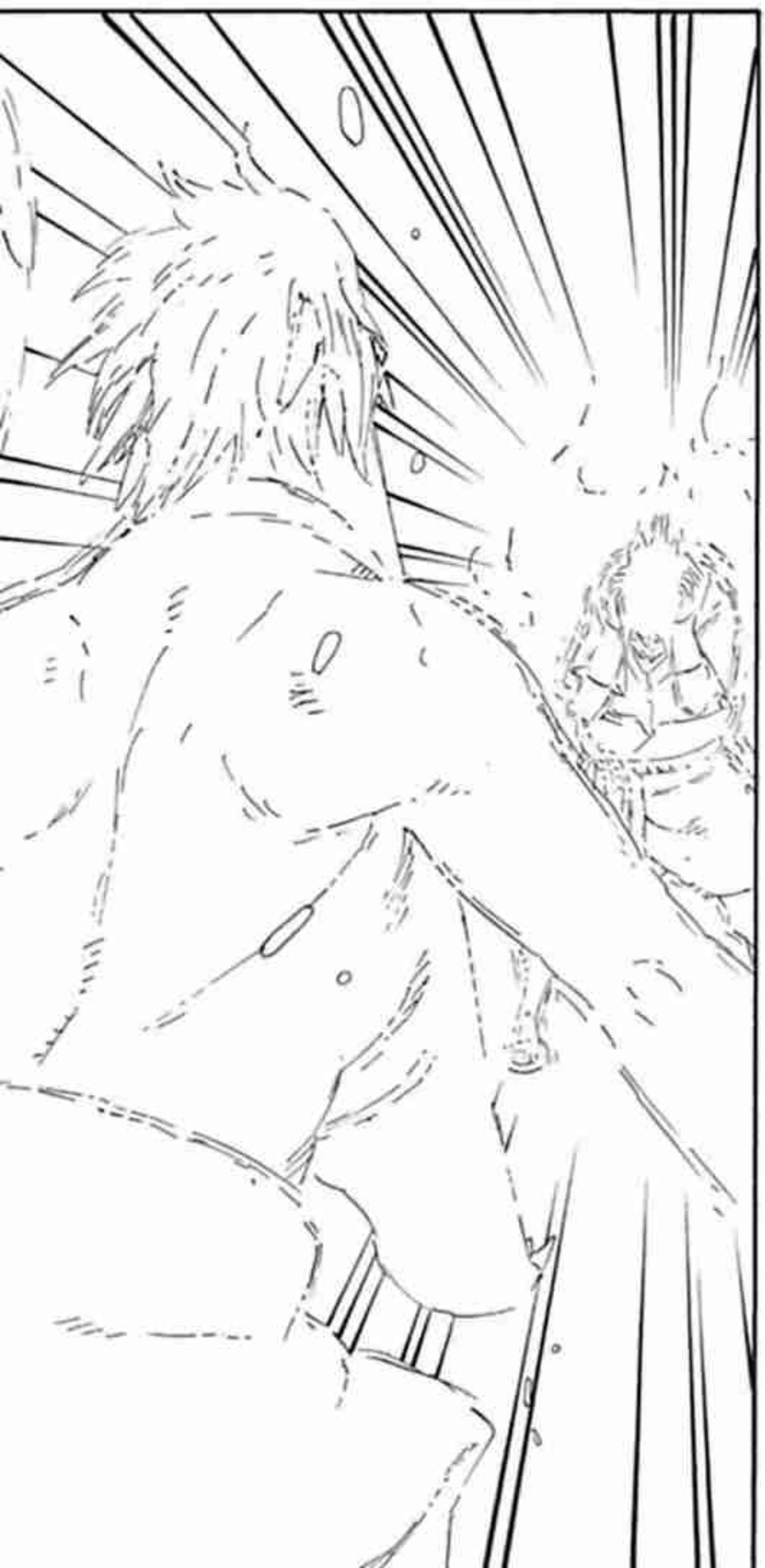
I CAN'T HOLD SUSANO'O...

UGH! IT'S NO USE...

THANKS TO MY SAGE POWERS, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MOVE IN THESE CONDITIONS.

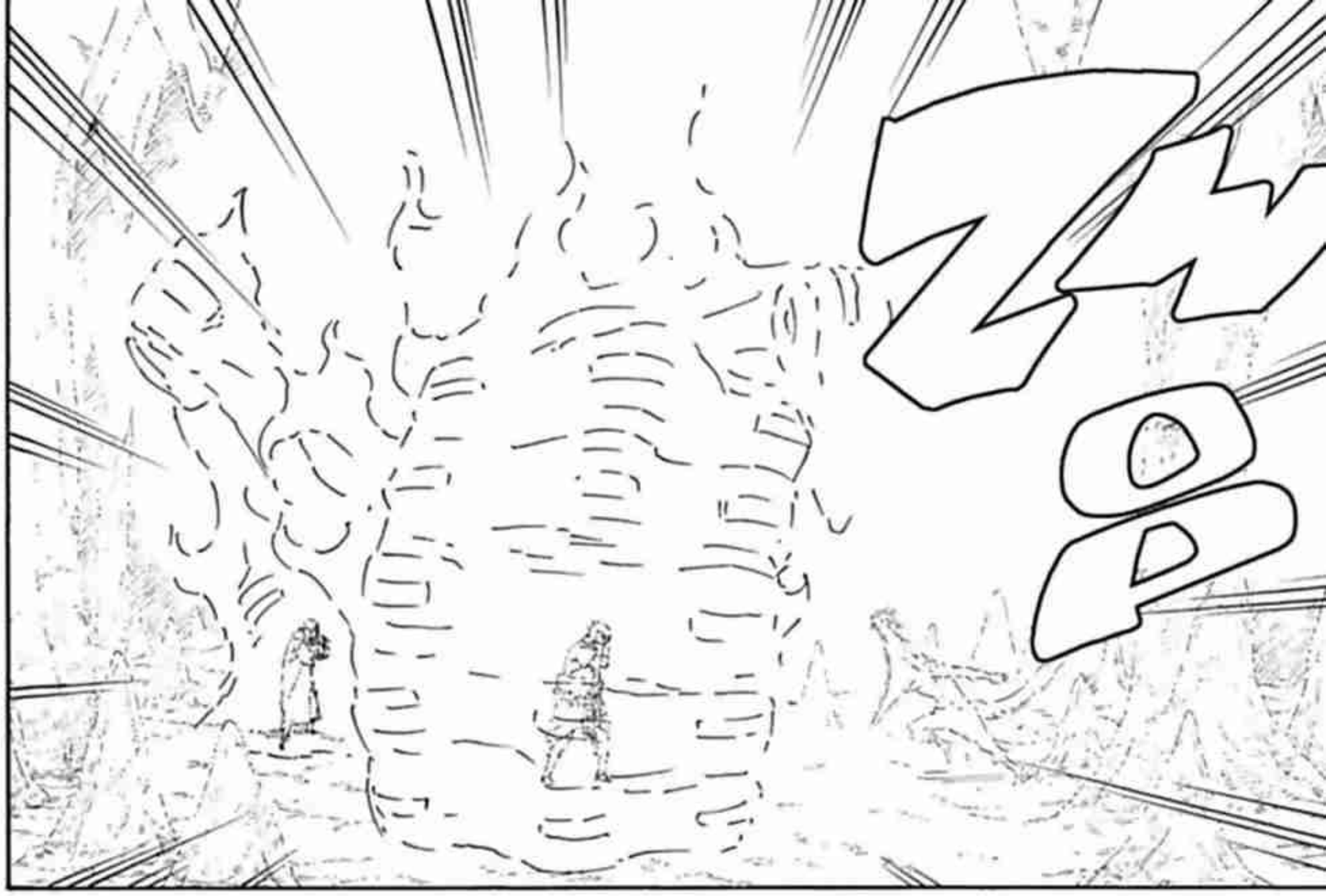
VOOOSH

OR... EVEN BETTER...
I NEED TO GO AFTER ITACHI... REWRITE THE TAG IN HIS HEAD AND MAKE HIM A PAWN AGAIN...



...

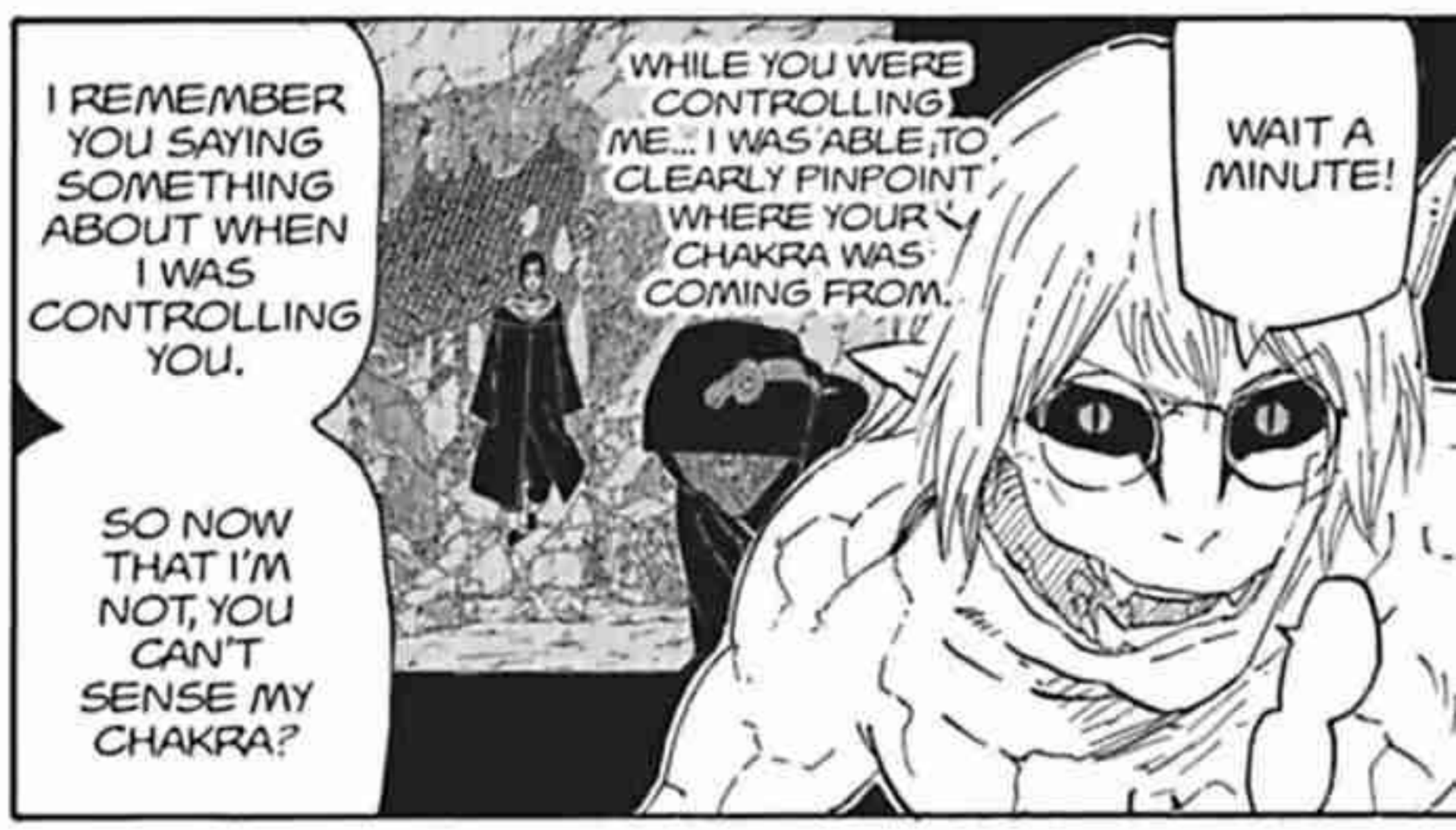
WHAM



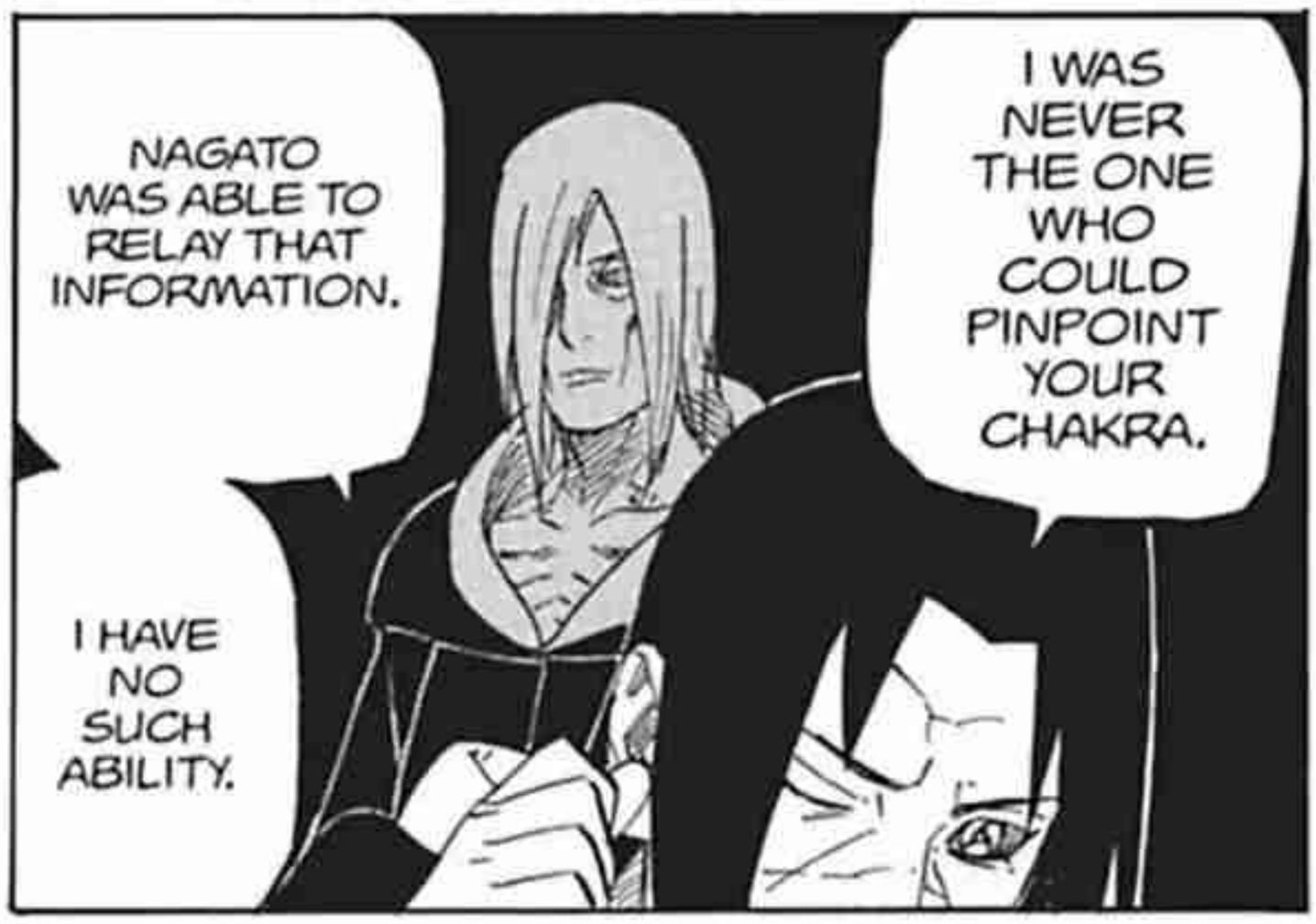
SENSING MY CHAKRA?
ITACHI... YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO FIND ME.
SCREECH

RRREEEEE
!!

OR ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL ME AGAIN?


I REMEMBER YOU SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT WHEN I WAS CONTROLLING YOU.
SO NOW THAT I'M NOT, YOU CAN'T SENSE MY CHAKRA?
WHILE YOU WERE CONTROLLING ME... I WAS ABLE TO CLEARLY PINPOINT WHERE YOUR CHAKRA WAS COMING FROM.
WAIT A MINUTE!

?!


NAGATO WAS ABLE TO RELAY THAT INFORMATION.
I WAS NEVER THE ONE WHO COULD PINPOINT YOUR CHAKRA.
I HAVE NO SUCH ABILITY.

SWOOSH
I MERELY MOVE TO PROTECT THAT WHICH I THINK YOU'LL MOST WANT TO ATTACK.
BUT I ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOUR TARGET IS ANYWAY. I DO HAVE INSTINCTS, YOU KNOW.

AND THEN USE MY BROTHER TO STOP ME.
YOUR BEST CHANCE TO CAPTURE SASUKE IS NOW, BEFORE EITHER OF US FIGURES OUT YOUR JUTSU!
!!

YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH HIM FIRST.
IF YOU REALLY WANT SASUKE...

THAT IS WHY YOU'RE SO GOOD AT DECEIVING PEOPLE... YOU DIED A GENIUS...

...AT LYING!

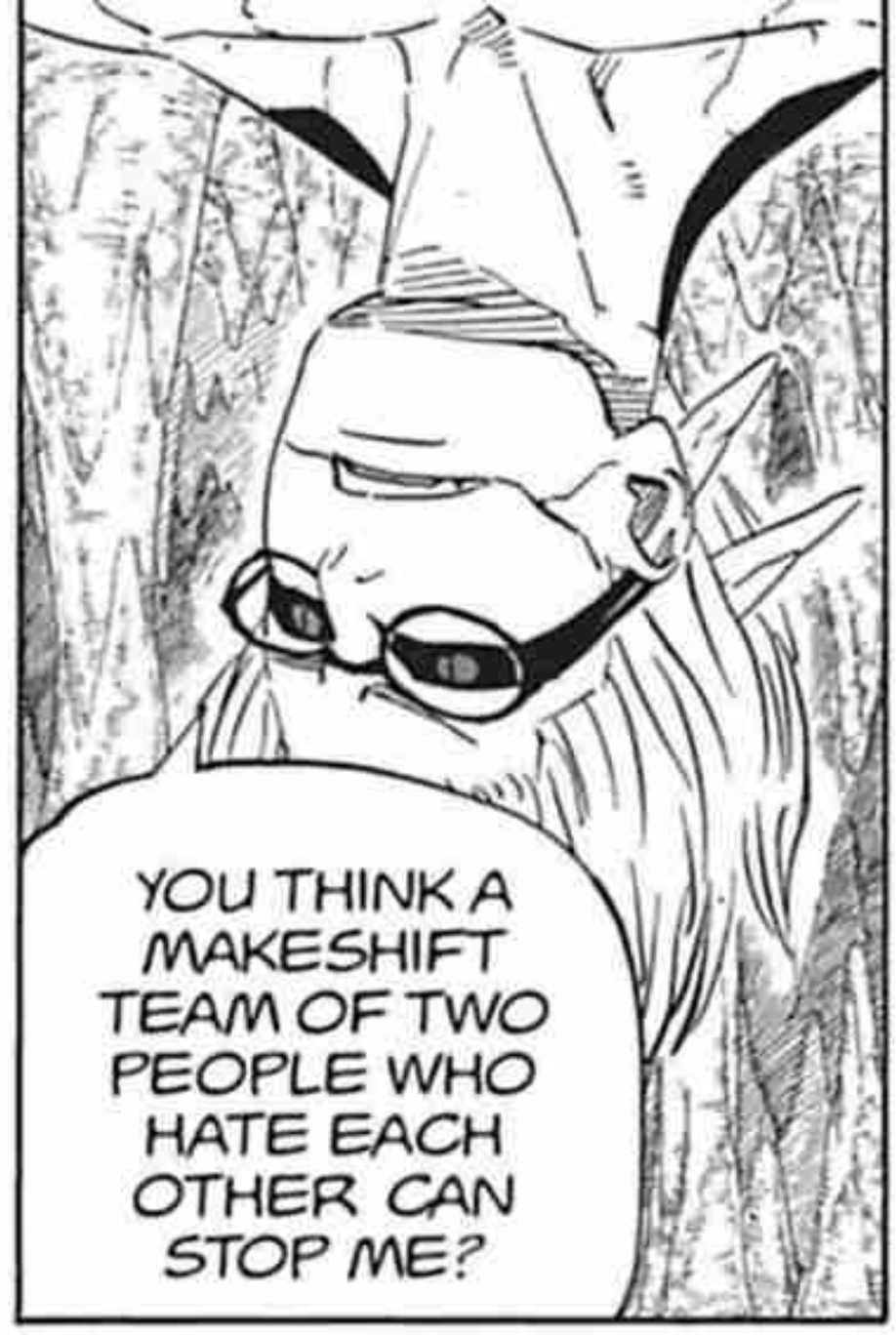
THE ABILITY TO PEER INTO AND READ PEOPLE'S SOULS...

...AND USE WHAT YOU LEARN IN BATTLE.

WHAT SETS YOU APART FROM THE REST OF YOUR UCHIHA BRETHREN IS THAT YOU HAVE ***TRUE*** OCULAR POWERS...

...

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRUST YOUR LIAR OF A BROTHER.


YOU THINK A MAKESHIFT TEAM OF TWO PEOPLE WHO HATE EACH OTHER CAN STOP ME?

...

I REMEM-BER.
OH... THAT... THE ONE THAT WAS RUINING OUR FIELDS...?

SASUKE...
...DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME LONG AGO, WHEN YOU TAGGED ALONG ON MY BOAR MISSION?
DARK...
...?!

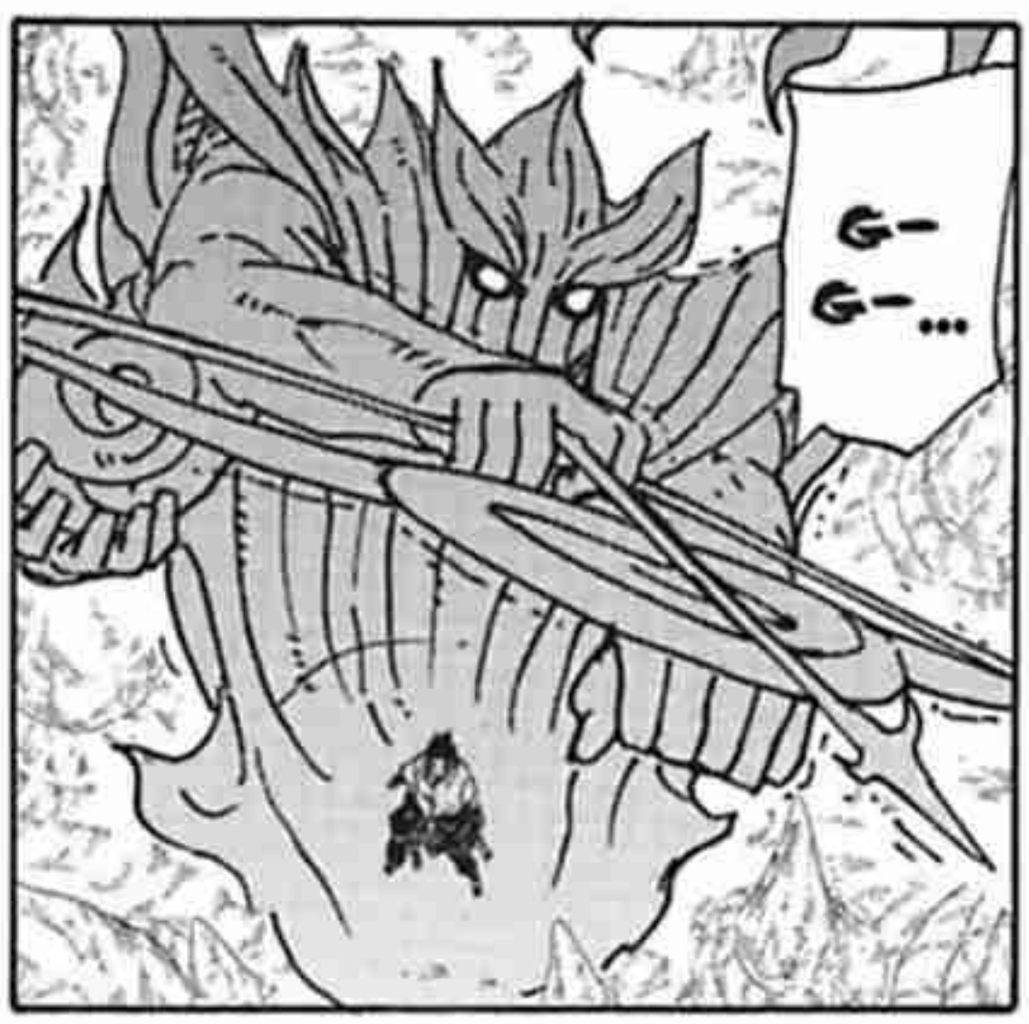
DON'T KILL HIM!

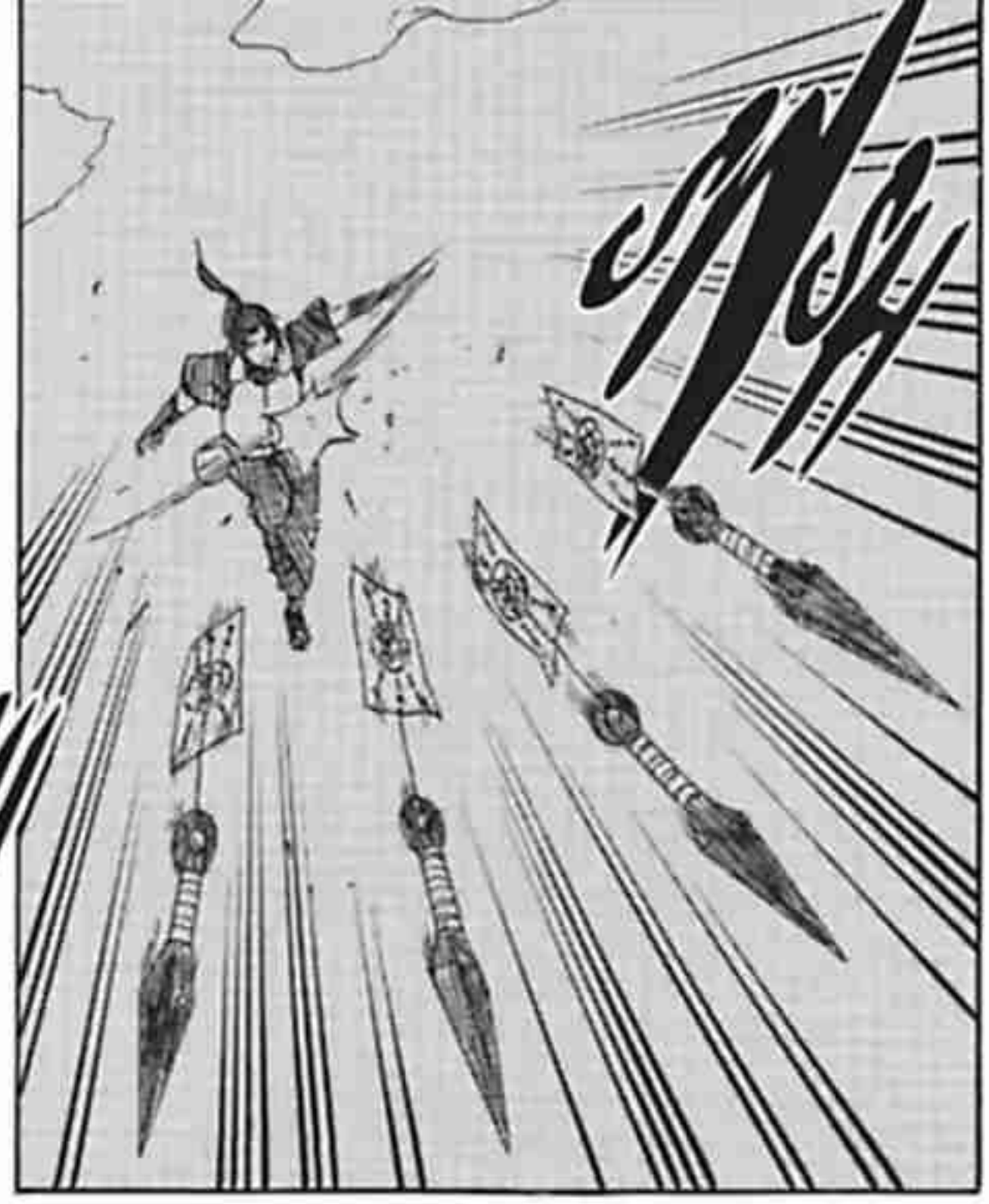
READY?
YEAH.
SHUP

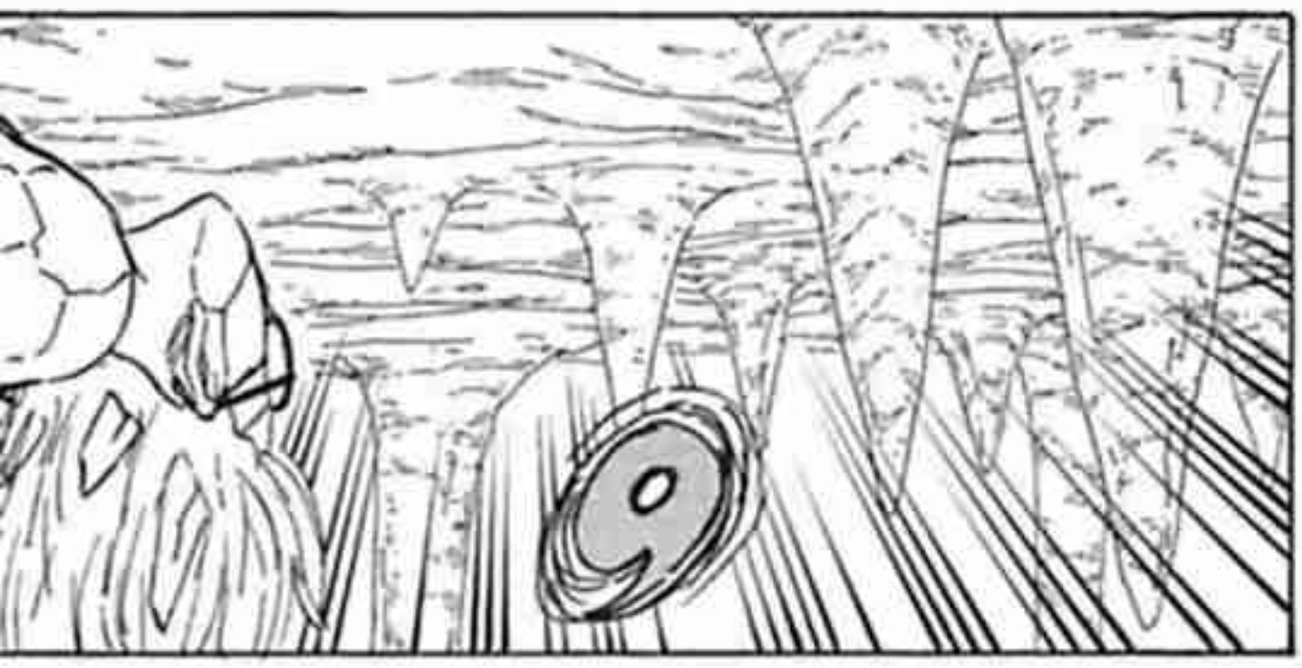
?

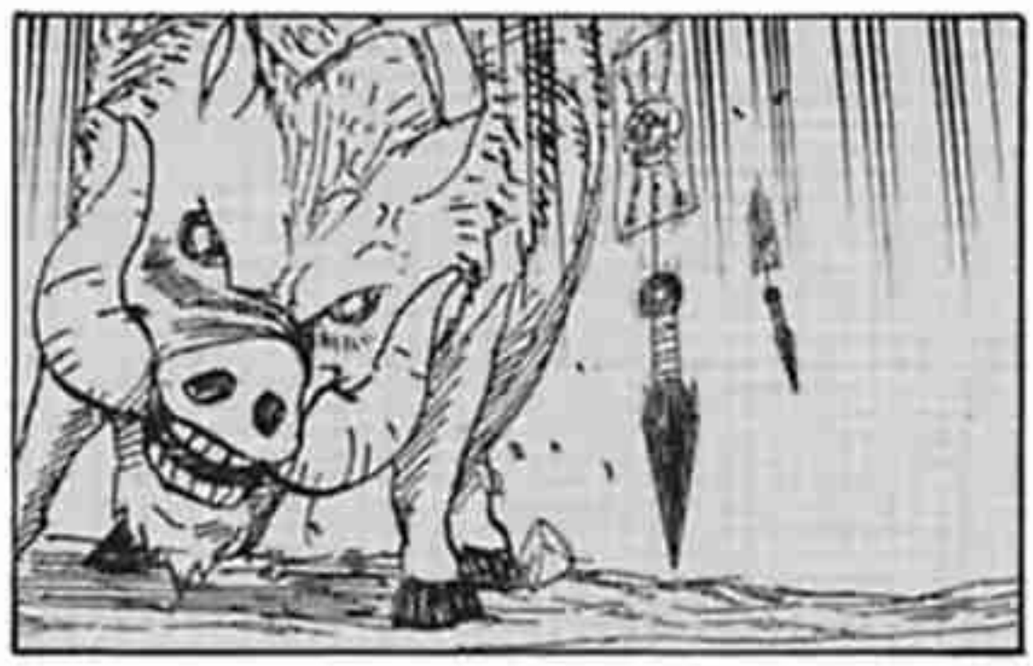
ZWOOOOOOOO

I KNOW!









!!!

SLOSH

?!!

TK

KRAK

NOW!!

KRAK

GAK

FOOSH

HE'S GOING TO STEAL MY BLADE AND CUT OFF HIS OWN TAIL TO ESCAPE!

UNGH...!

WOOOO

SLOOSH

OGH

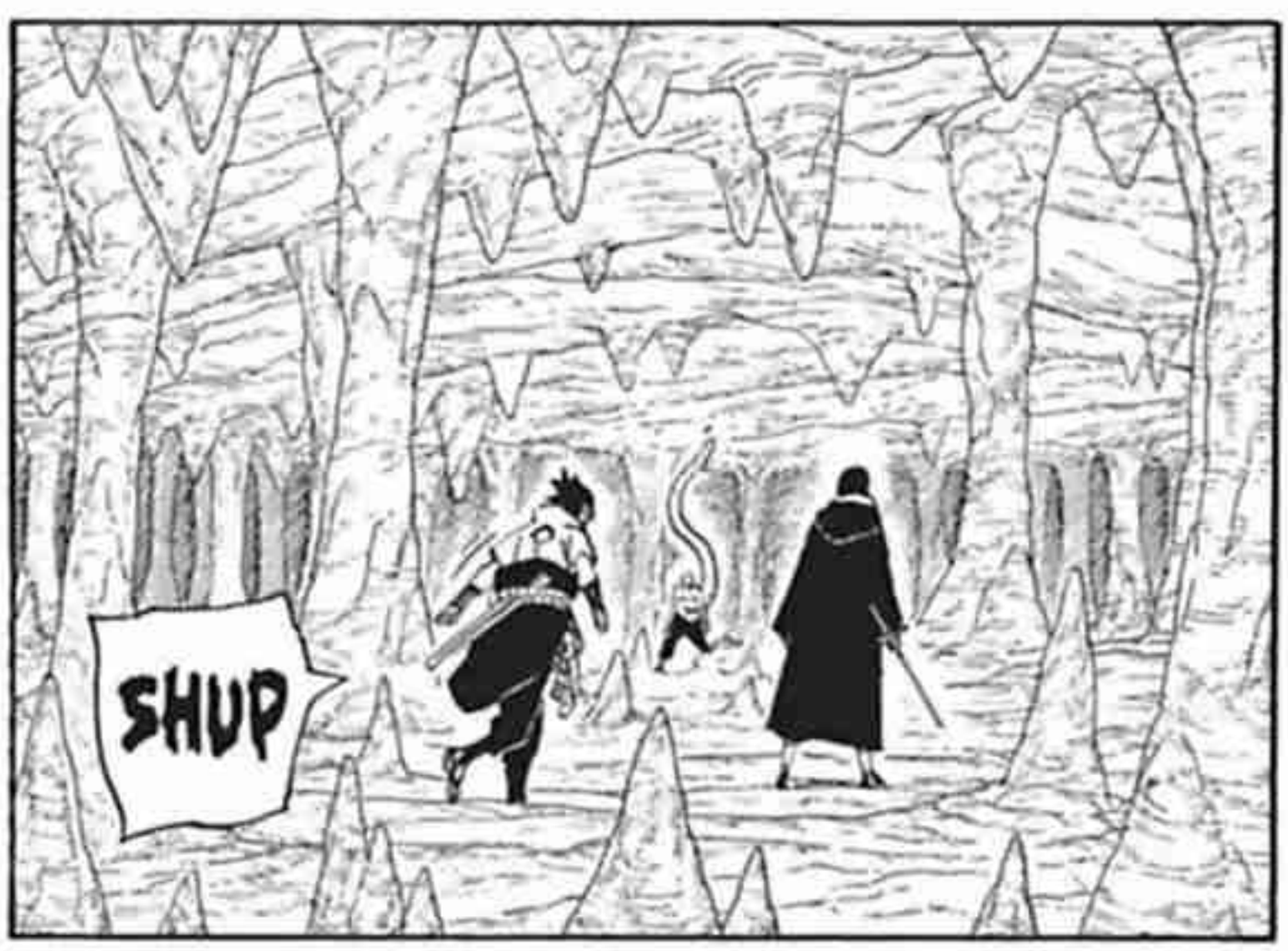
?!

!

UGH...!

WAP

WOOSH



YOU STILL NEED TO TRAIN.
SORRY... BROTHER...

YOU COMPLETELY MISSED.
WUMP

LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO KILL THAT GIANT BOAR NOW.
...

WELL, YEAH...
EXCEPT FIRST, I'VE GOT TO TAKE DOWN THAT SNAKE.

CLINK

SO IRONIC.

?

Number 581: To Each Their Own Konoha

THE TRUTH.

OH, REALLY?
SO YOU DON'T REALLY TRUST ITACHI AFTER ALL.

...

!!

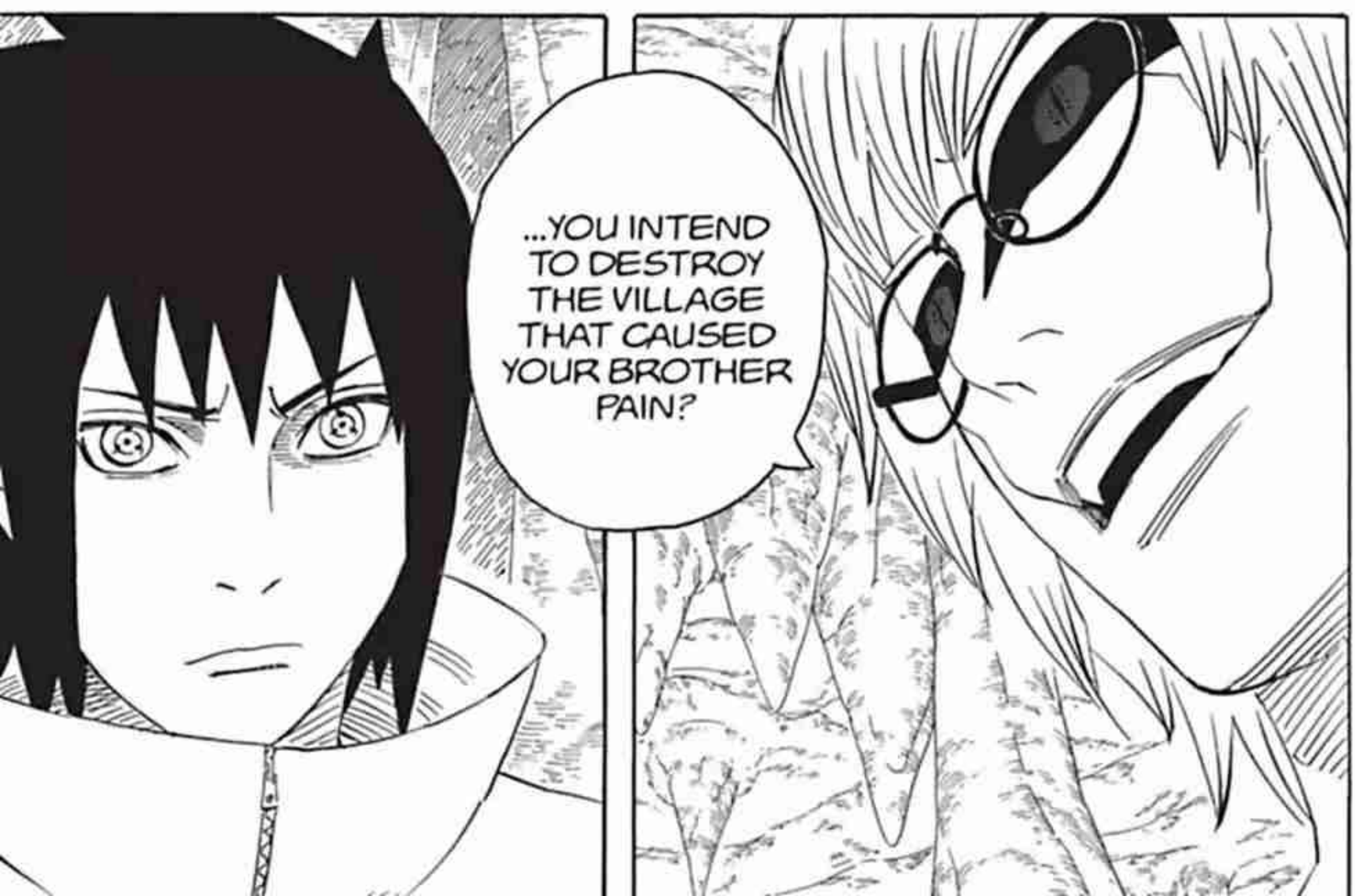
...

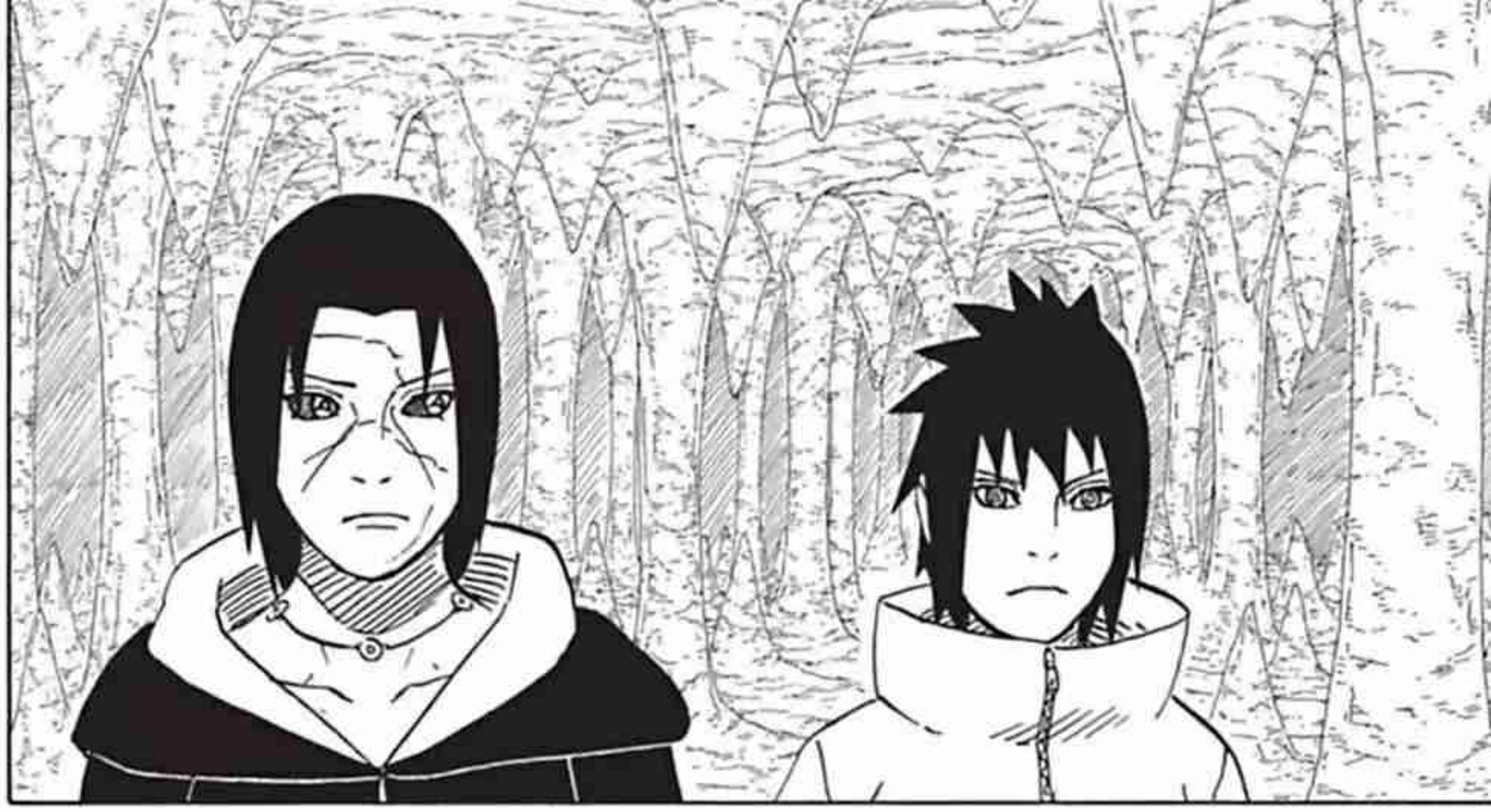
...

...MAYBE YOU ALREADY KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI?
SASUKE...

NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T RETURN TO KONOHA VILLAGE AFTER DEFEATING ITACHI...

NO WONDER YOU JOINED THE AKATSUKI IN THEIR ANTI-KONOHA PLANS!





...IS A LIAR!
WELL, YOUR BROTHER...

YOU FOLLOWED YOUR BROTHER HERE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ONCE AND FOR ALL.
YOU WANTED ALL THE DIRTY DETAILS, DIDN'T YOU?
NO DENIALS?
TK

...?

...ISN'T IT A BIT ODD?
SO...

ISN'T THAT IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO?

ITACHI WAS WILLING TO KILL HIS OWN FAMILY TO PROTECT KONOHA.

...

LORD OROCHIMARU COULD NOT COMPLETE ***OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA.*** IT IS I WHO HAS INHERITED THAT TASK.

I'M THE ONE... WHO WANTS WHAT YOU WANT!

...

HE'S NOT EVEN ***HIM***! HE'S ALREADY DEAD!

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO FEEL GUILTY!

JOIN ME AND STAB YOUR TREACHEROUS BROTHER ITACHI IN THE BACK IN THE PROCESS!

PONDER THAT CAREFULLY...

酒
YOU ALL SHOULD MARK HIS ENTRY IN YOUR BINGO BOOKS "N/A" AND CROSS HIM OFF YOUR LISTS.
WE'VE RECEIVED INTEL THAT UCHIHA ITACHI OF THE AKATSUKI HAS DIED.
FSH
SO THAT TRAITOR HAS FINALLY DIED, EH.
FSH
UNH
...

INCLUDING EVEN JOINING THE AKATSUKI AND ATTACKING KONOHA!

FOR ALL HIS CRIMES!

IT'S SHOCKINGLY PURE RET-RIBUTION!

SO IRONIC, THAT A KIN KILLER BE KILLED BY HIS OWN KIN.

HIS LITTLE BROTHER SASUKE, APPARENTLY.

WHO KILLED HIM, CAPTAIN?

HE'S KONOHA'S ALL-TIME WORST VILLAIN!

...

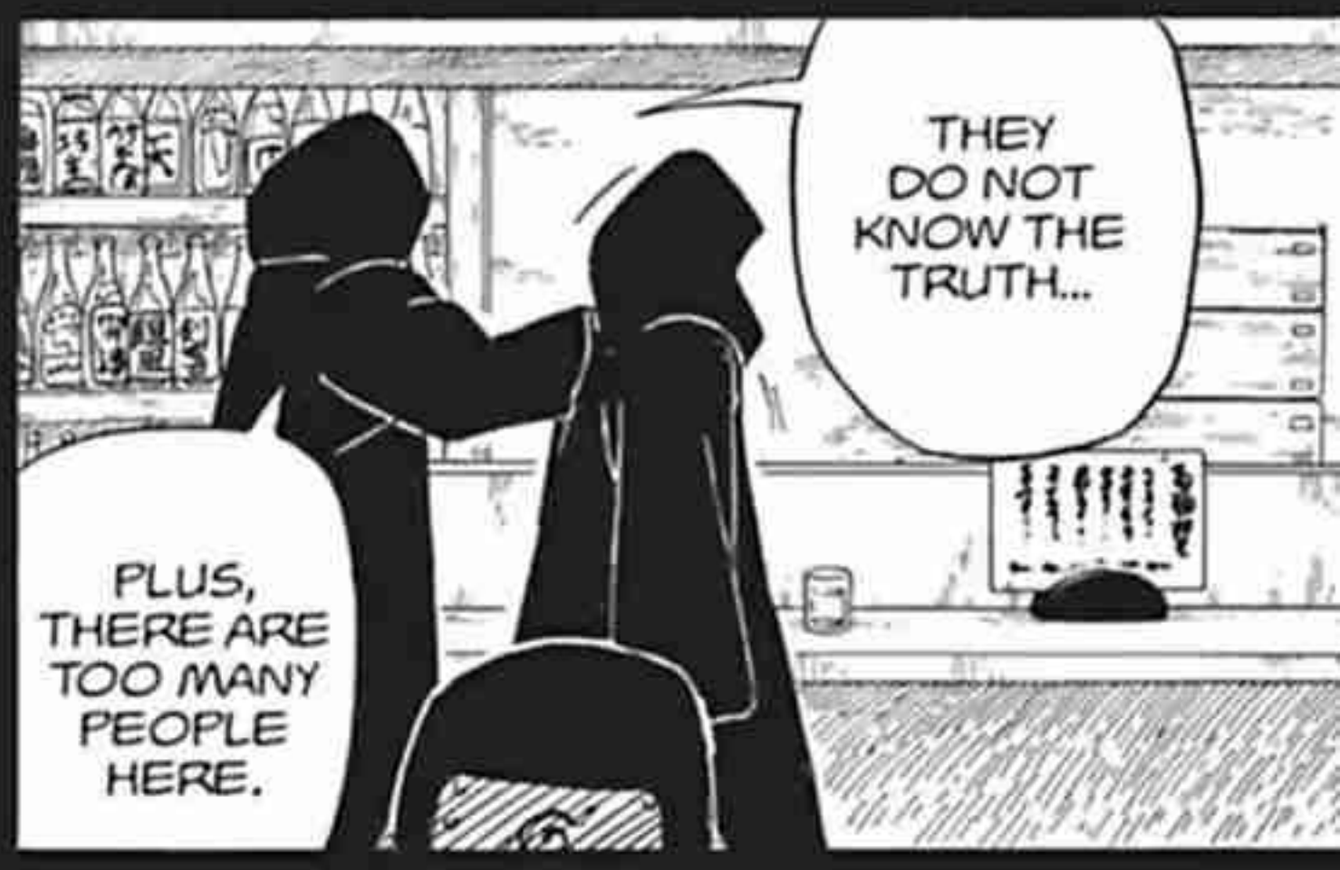
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF MONEY. YOU'RE OUT OF LINE...

I WONDER HOW MUCH?

HAVING TAKEN DOWN SUCH A SPECIAL S CLASS CRIMINAL, HIS LITTLE BROTHER WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE MERITORIOUS DECORATIONS AND A LARGE BOUNTY FROM NATION AND VILLAGE, RIGHT?

?!

WELL... I KNOW, BUT...



SO NO ONE WILL BELIEVE THE TRUTH ANYWAY... LOOK HOW LONG IT TOOK YOU...

ITACHI DID IN FACT SLAUGHTER HIS OWN UCHIHA CLAN.

AS AN AKATSUKI MEMBER, HE PRETENDED TO ATTACK KONOHA.

THE CURRENT HOKAGE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE FACTS.

DON'T... EVEN IF THEY TRY TO CONFIRM THE TRUTH ABOUT ITACHI WITH THEIR SUPERIORS, KONOHA'S ELDERS WILL DENY IT VEHEMENTLY.

BROTHER SACRIFICED ***EVERYTHING*** FOR THESE WORMS WHO WOULD BRAND HIM A TRAITOR..

UNH UNH

FOR THESE WORMS...

SKRK

...

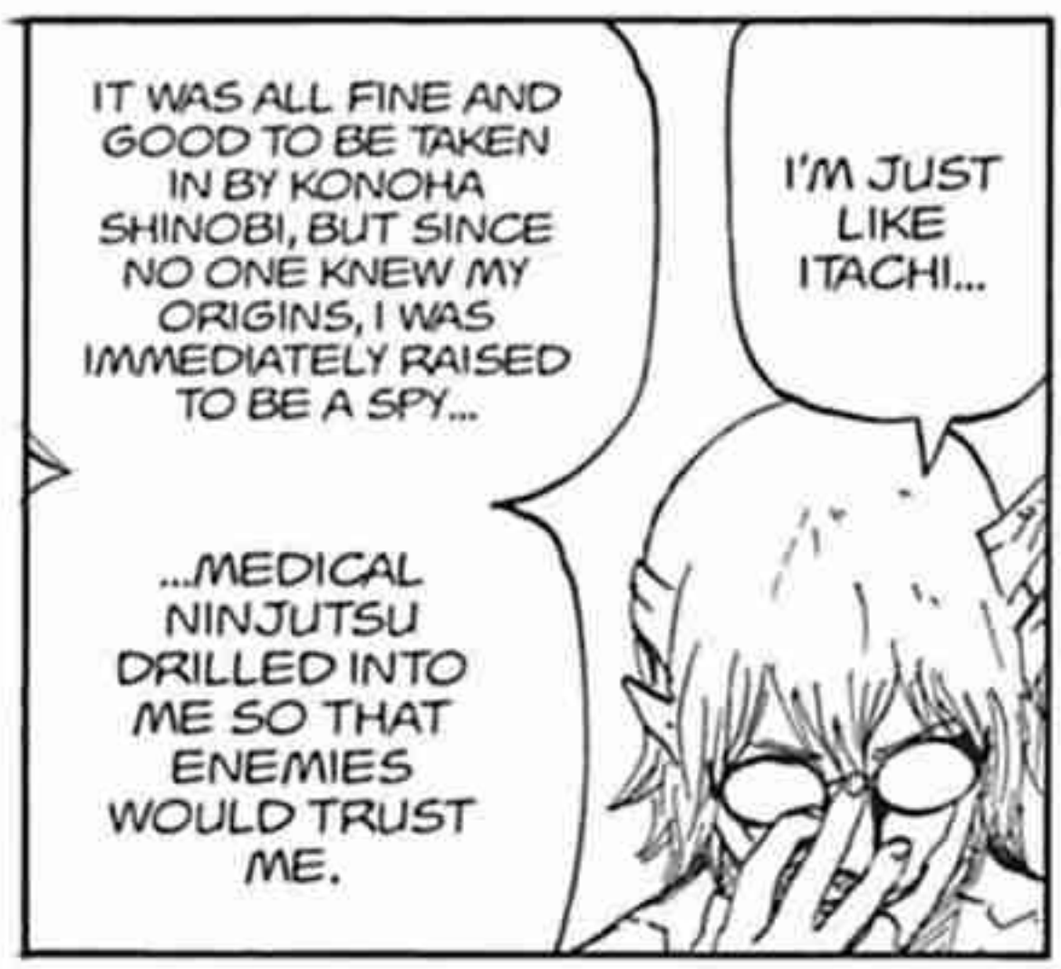
WE'RE NOT THE SAME!

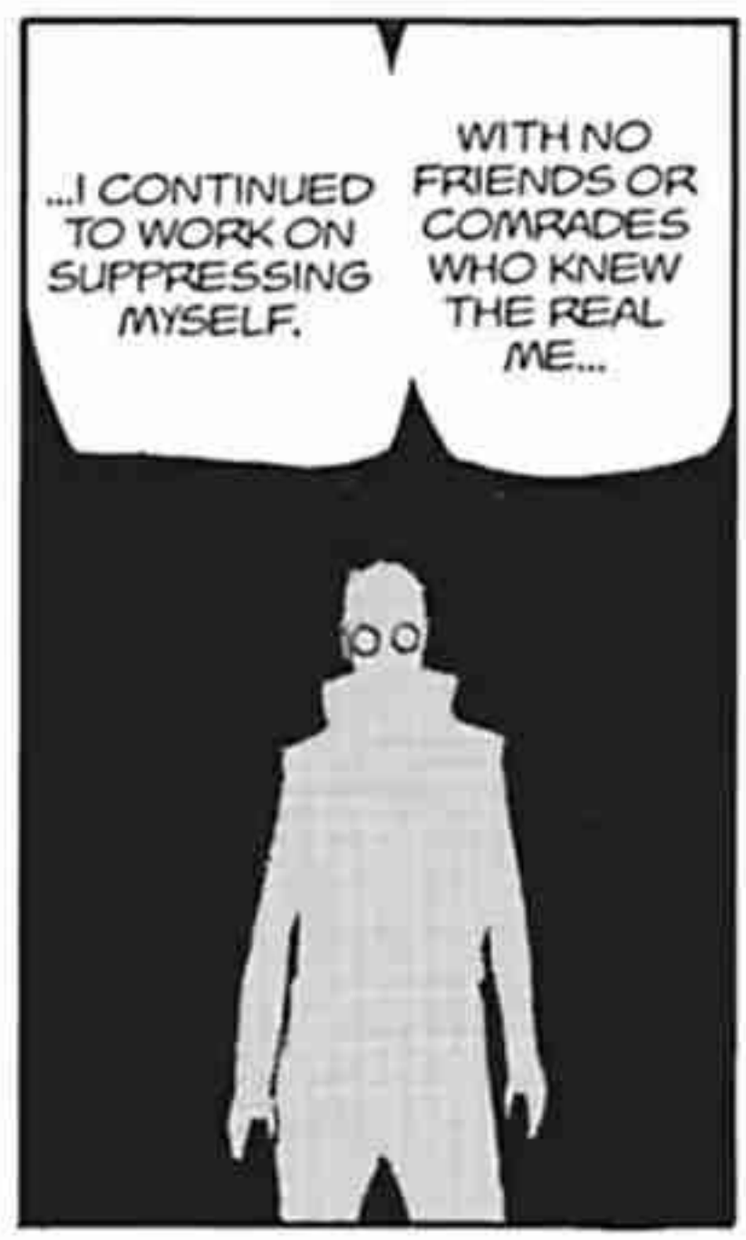
...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WHAT IS IT THAT ***YOU*** WANT...?

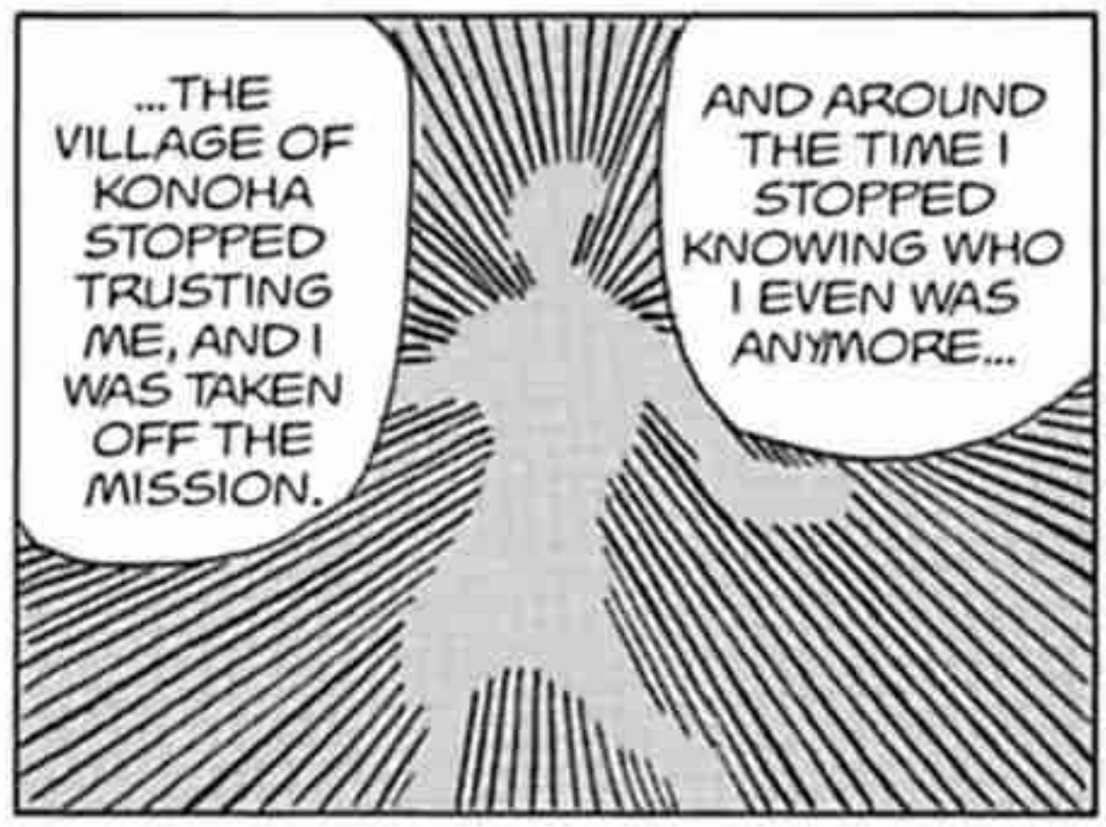
IT'S WHAT ITACHI WANTED.

MY OPERATION DESTROY KONOHA IS NOTHING LIKE YOURS!





BOTH ITACHI AND I WORKED FOR THE GOOD OF KONOHA VILLAGE, BUT IN RETURN, ALL WE GOT BACK WAS DISHONOR AND DISGRACE!

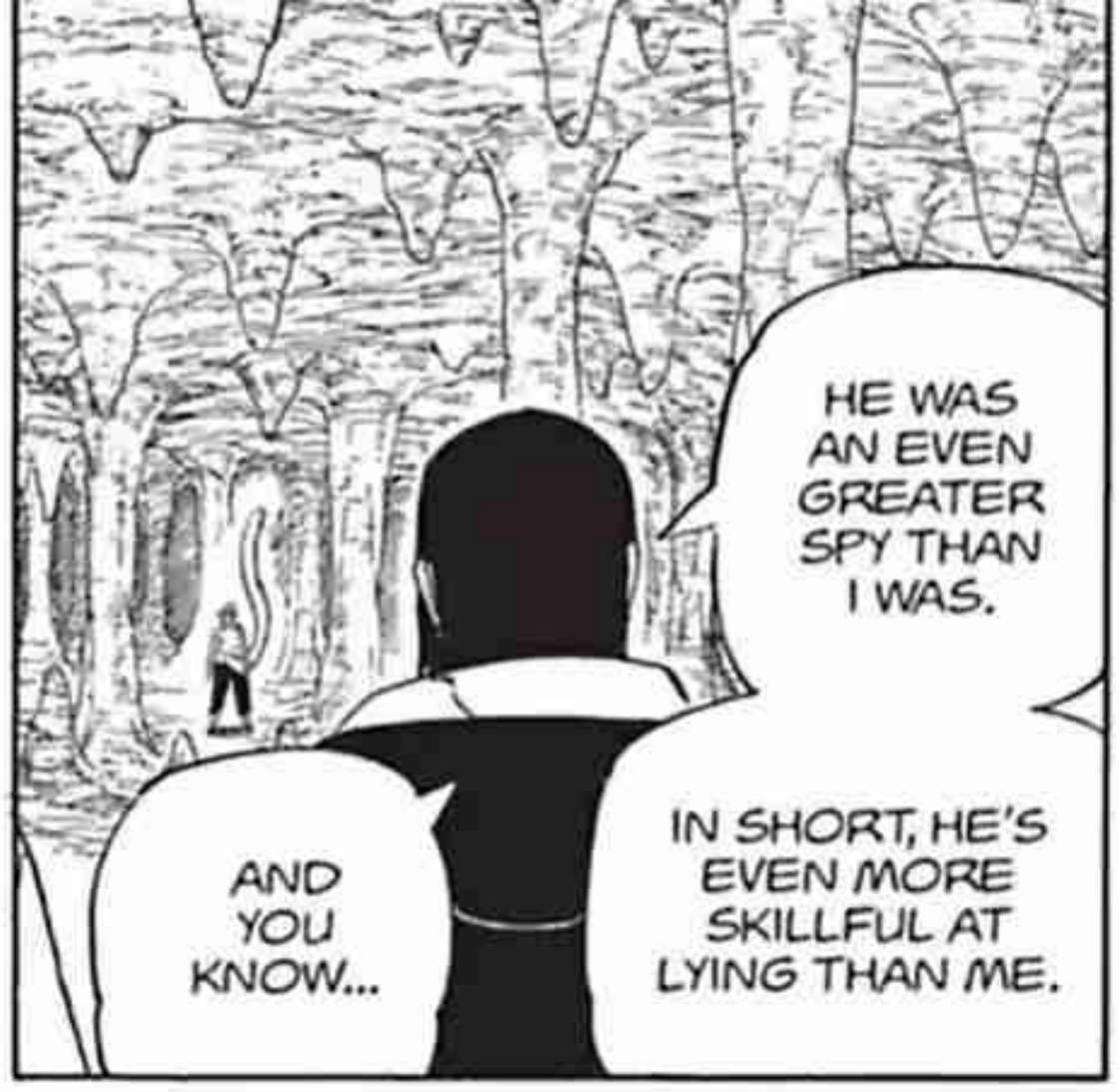

...THE VILLAGE OF KONOHA STOPPED TRUSTING ME, AND I WAS TAKEN OFF THE MISSION.
AND AROUND THE TIME I STOPPED KNOWING WHO I EVEN WAS ANYMORE...

SO WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS KONOHA VILLAGE EVER DONE FOR US, EH?

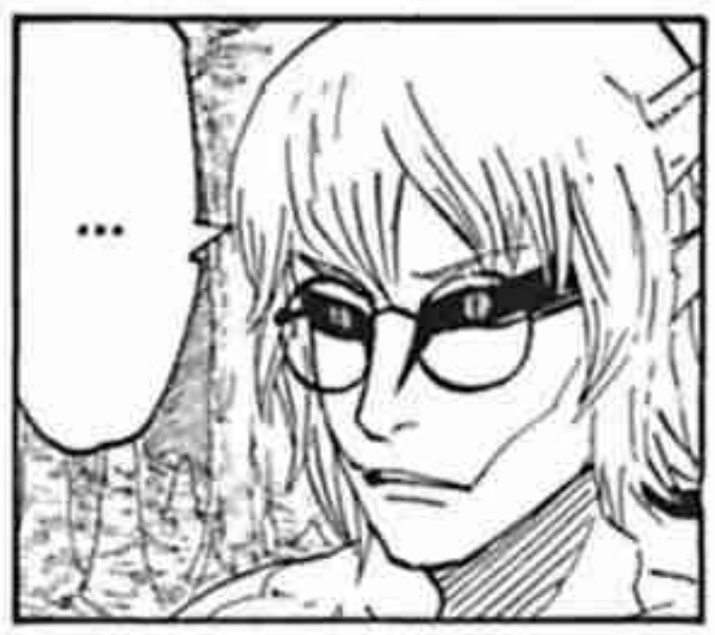
THUS, I SHALL BE YOUR BIG BROTHER AND STICK BY YOUR SIDE... NOW COME JOIN ME.
NO ONE UNDERSTANDS YOU BETTER THAN I.

AND THOUGH I AM STILL ALIVE, SOMETHING SIMILAR TO YOU WAS BORN FROM ME TOO.
HOW ITACHI LIVED IS WHAT LED TO THE CREATION OF THE CURRENT YOU.

...


HE WAS AN EVEN GREATER SPY THAN I WAS.
AND YOU KNOW...
IN SHORT, HE'S EVEN MORE SKILLFUL AT LYING THAN ME.

?!
SASUKE, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM.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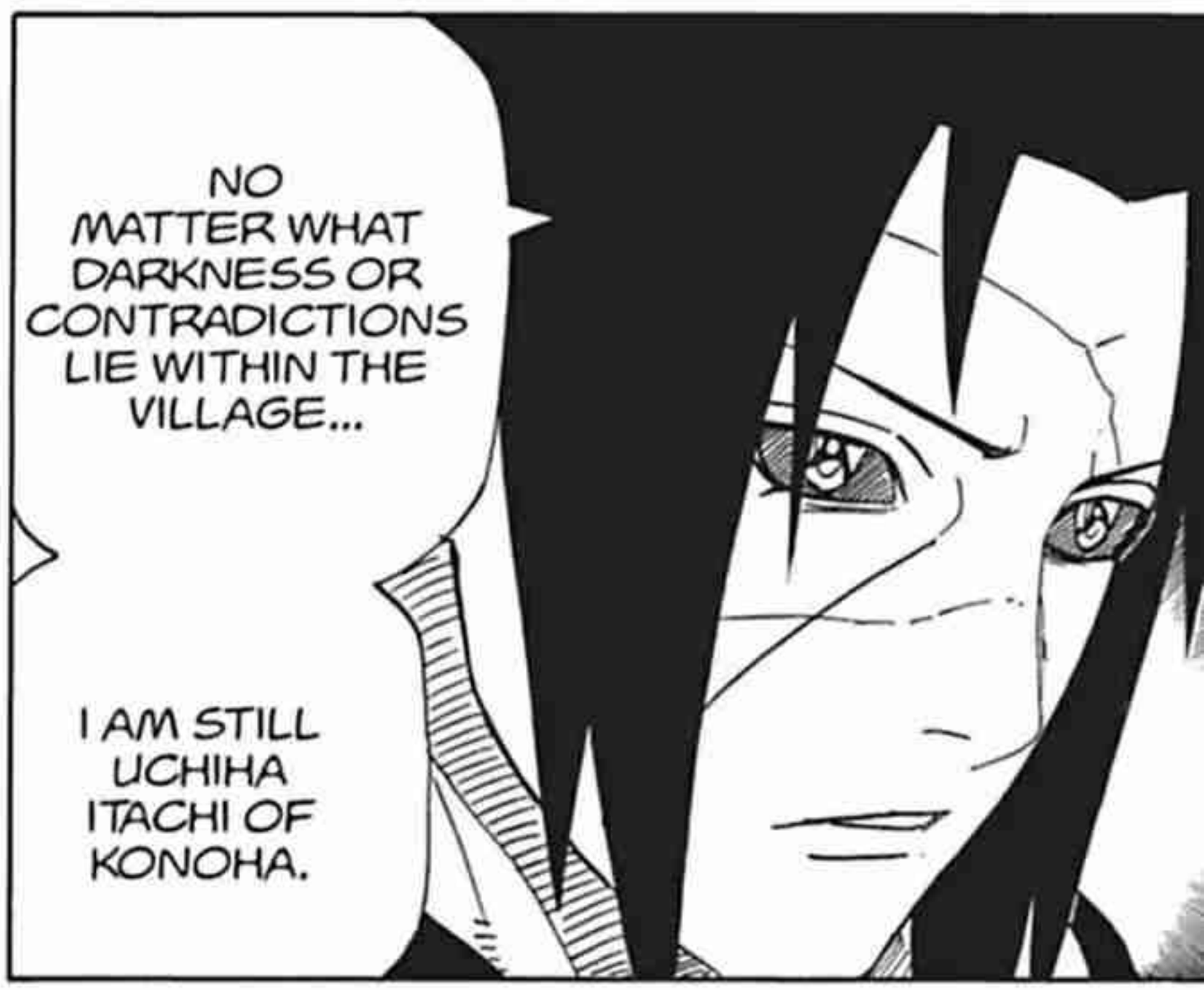
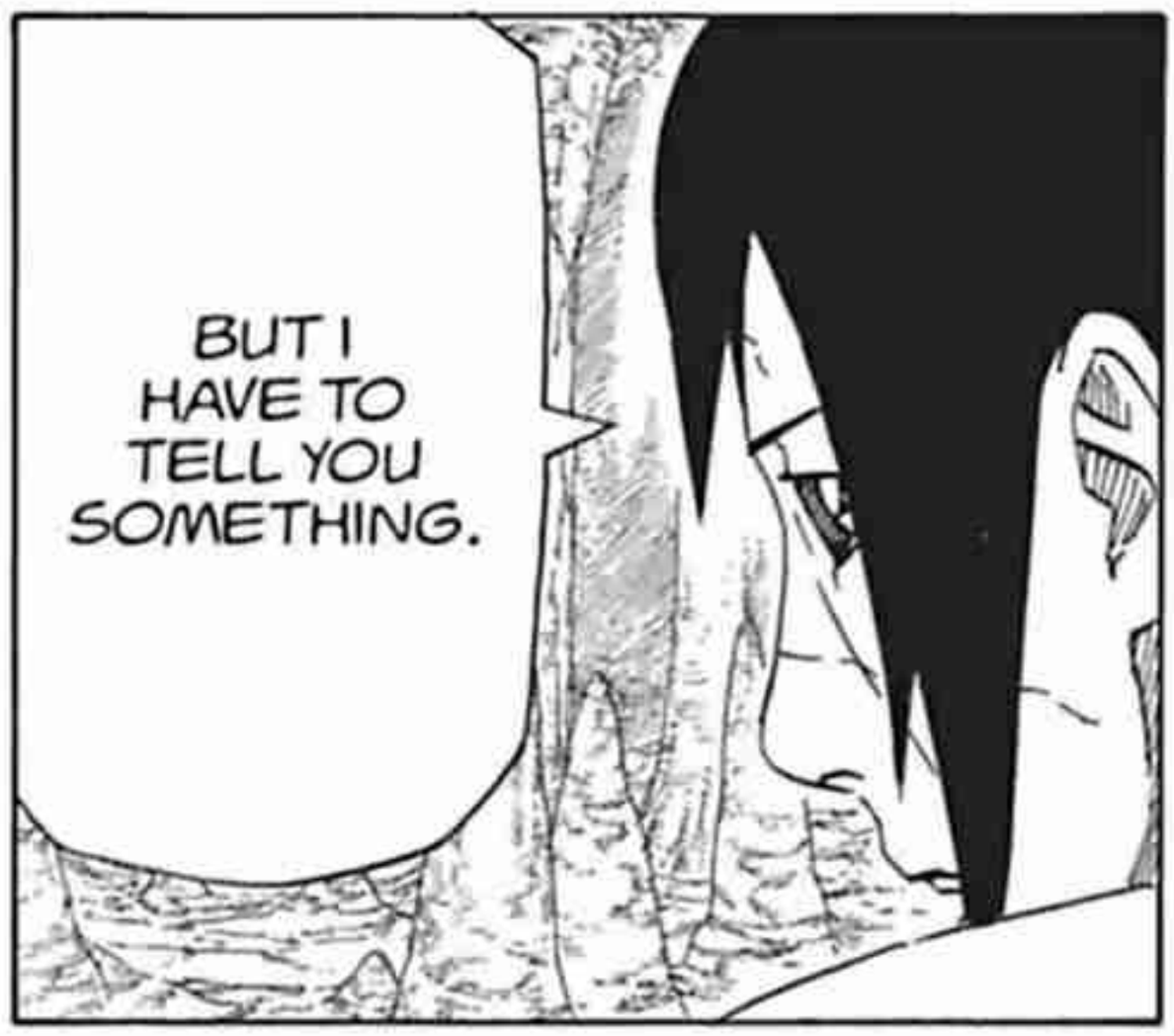

NO MATTER WHAT DARKNESS OR CONTRADICTIONS LIE WITHIN THE VILLAGE...
I AM STILL UCHIHA ITACHI OF KONOHA.


BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ADVISE YOU IN ANY WAY.
SASUKE... IT'S MY FAULT YOU'RE LIKE THIS NOW.

SO HELP ME STOP HIM!
AFTER WE HAVE SETTLED THINGS HERE.

?!

...

AND I CAN INSTANTLY RECOVER FROM ANY WOUND YOU TRY TO INFLICT.
I CAST THE EDOTENSEI. YOU CANNOT KILL ME.

BECAUSE I CAST IT, THIS EDOTENSEI JUTSU IS INVINCIBLE!
YOU BROTHERS HAVE NO CHANCE!

I'VE ALSO SHUT OFF MY VISION... SO YOUR MUCH-TOUTED OCULAR GENJUTSU WON'T WORK EITHER.

HE DOESN'T KNOW THE TRUE POWER OF THE UCHIHA.

YEAH, I GET IT. SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

OKAY, HE'S WORDY AND BORING BUT HE'S ALSO RIGHT.

THE IZANAGI...?

...

THE UCHIHA HAVE AN OCULAR JUTSU THAT CAN TRAP AN OPPONENT EVEN WITHOUT EYESIGHT...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR LOSING THE LIGHT IN ONE'S OWN EYES.

SHUP

I'M IMPRESSED... THAT YOU SURVIVED.

DANZO USED IT DURING MY BATTLE AGAINST HIM...

YOU KNOW ABOUT IZANAGI?

NOT IZANAGI.
ANOTHER FORBIDDEN JUTSU THAT IS CONSIDERED ITS OTHER HALF.
SHUP...

FSH
...?

NEVER MIND THAT. HOW DO WE USE IZANAGI HERE?

BZZ
ANOTHER?!
TA
AN ULTIMATE OCULAR JUTSU THAT HOLDS HIS FATE WITHIN ITS GRASP...
I'VE ALREADY LAID THE PLAN.

KLANG

IZANAMI?!
!!

IF IZANAGI IS A JUTSU THAT CHANGES ONE'S FATE...
THEN IZANAMI IS A JUTSU THAT DECIDES ONE'S FATE!
RRRK

FSH
DO NOT LEAVE MY SIDE, SASUKE, NO MATTER WHAT!

THE IZANAMI!!

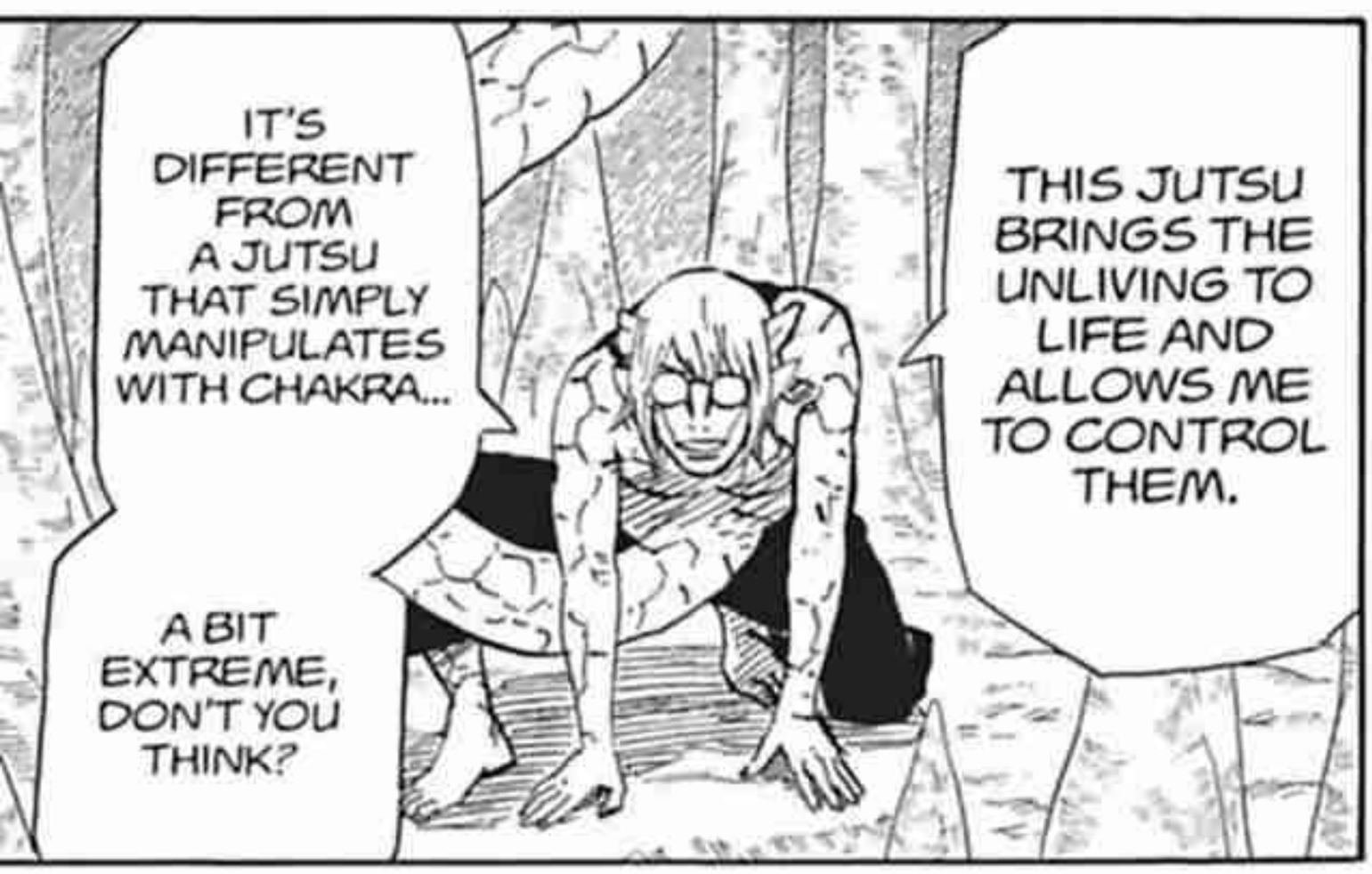
Number 582: Nothing

SHOOO!

?!

SAGE TECHNIQUE! INORGANIC ANIMATION!!

!!


IT'S DIFFERENT FROM A JUTSU THAT SIMPLY MANIPULATES WITH CHAKRA...
THIS JUTSU BRINGS THE UNLIVING TO LIFE AND ALLOWS ME TO CONTROL THEM.
A BIT EXTREME, DON'T YOU THINK?

ITACHI!

NOW THEN, TIME TO REWRITE THAT BRAIN OF YOURS.
FSH
YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN, RIGHT?

PLEASE... I WOULD NEVER HURT SASUKE. HE'S MY PRECIOUS TEST SUBJECT.
PROTECTING SASUKE WITH YOUR SUSANO'O SLOWED YOU DOWN...
NEEE...

SH
SHKE
AMATERASU!!
FOD
SH
BOF BOF
BOF
BOF
BOF
BOF
RRRK

SORRY... SASUKE...

IT'S SO HOT THE CAVE'S GONE BACK TO BEING A CAVE.
THE GREATEST OFFENSIVE OCULAR JUTSU CAN ALSO BE THE GREATEST DEFENSE.
HOOM

I HAVE EVOLVED FROM HUMAN TO SNAKE TO DRAGON...

ALL THE LAWS AND PRINCIPLES OF NATURE THAT LORD OROCHIMARU HAD ONCE COMPILED AND STUDIED...

...ARE NOW STORED AND BEING USED INSIDE OF ME.

I AM SO NEAR THE POINT WHERE I CAN ACHIEVE AND CONTROL EVERYTHING...

...THAT I JUST DON'T SEE MYSELF FAILING.

UNFOR-TUNATELY FOR YOU, I SHALL STILL WIN.

NEXT TO ME, UCHIHA ARE NOTHING!

I AM THE CLOSEST THING IN THIS WORLD TO THE SAGE OF SIX PATHS...

...IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT MY FORMER SELF...

KABUTO... WHEN I LOOK AT YOU...

...

!

FSH

YOU SEE...

YOU DON'T KNOW THE UCHIHA!

I HAD THE AKATSUKI AT MY BECK AND CALL. MANIPULATED THE WAR TO MY ADVANTAGE, CORNERED THE UCHIHA BROTHERS...

...

I'M NOT JUST A PLAYER. I *OWN* THIS WAR.

AND THAT IS WHY YOU WILL LOSE.

...!

WE BOTH LIVED AS SPIES, AS LIARS.

I HATE YOU BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU.

YOU'RE SAYING ONE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE... AND GIVE UP WHAT ONE CANNOT DO?

SOUNDS LIKE THE PHILO-SOPHY OF A LOSER.

IT IS TO KNOW WHAT ONE IS AND ISN'T CAPABLE OF.

BUT I FINALLY UNDERSTAND NOW, THAT TO KNOW ONESELF...

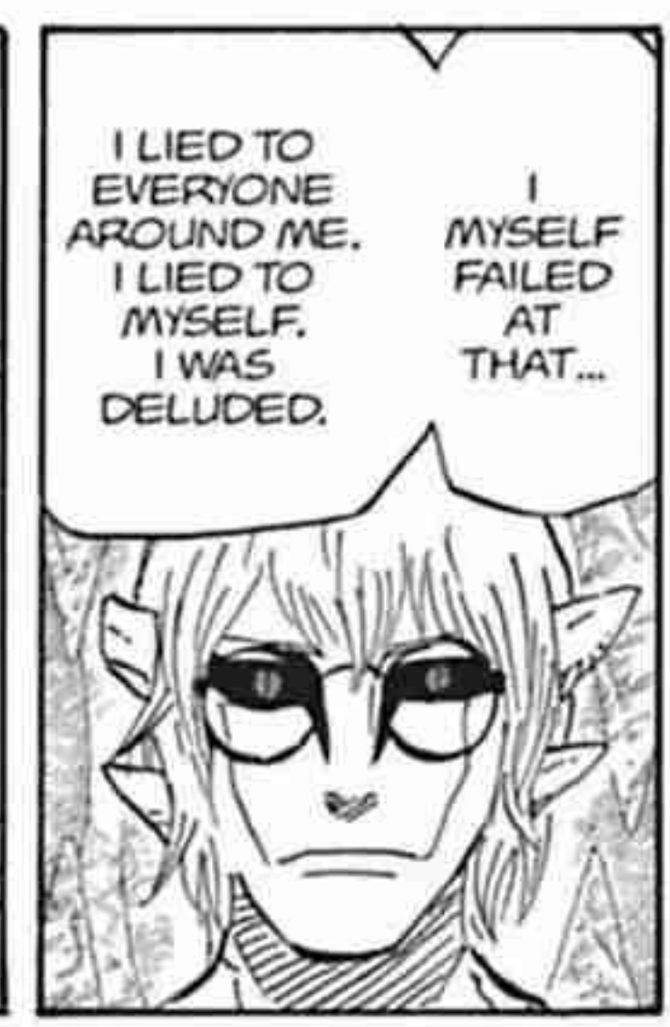
...IS *NOT* TO ACHIEVE EVERYTHING AND BECOME PERFECT.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT I WAS AT ONE POINT, EITHER.

AND ALSO YOU SHOULD NEVER IGNORE THINGS ONE COULD STILL ACCOMPLISH.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU CANNOT DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF, THAT YOU HAVE COMRADES WHO CAN HELP YOU.

IT IS TO BECOME ABLE TO FORGIVE ONESELF...
...FOR THE THINGS ONE CANNOT DO ONESELF.
NO.

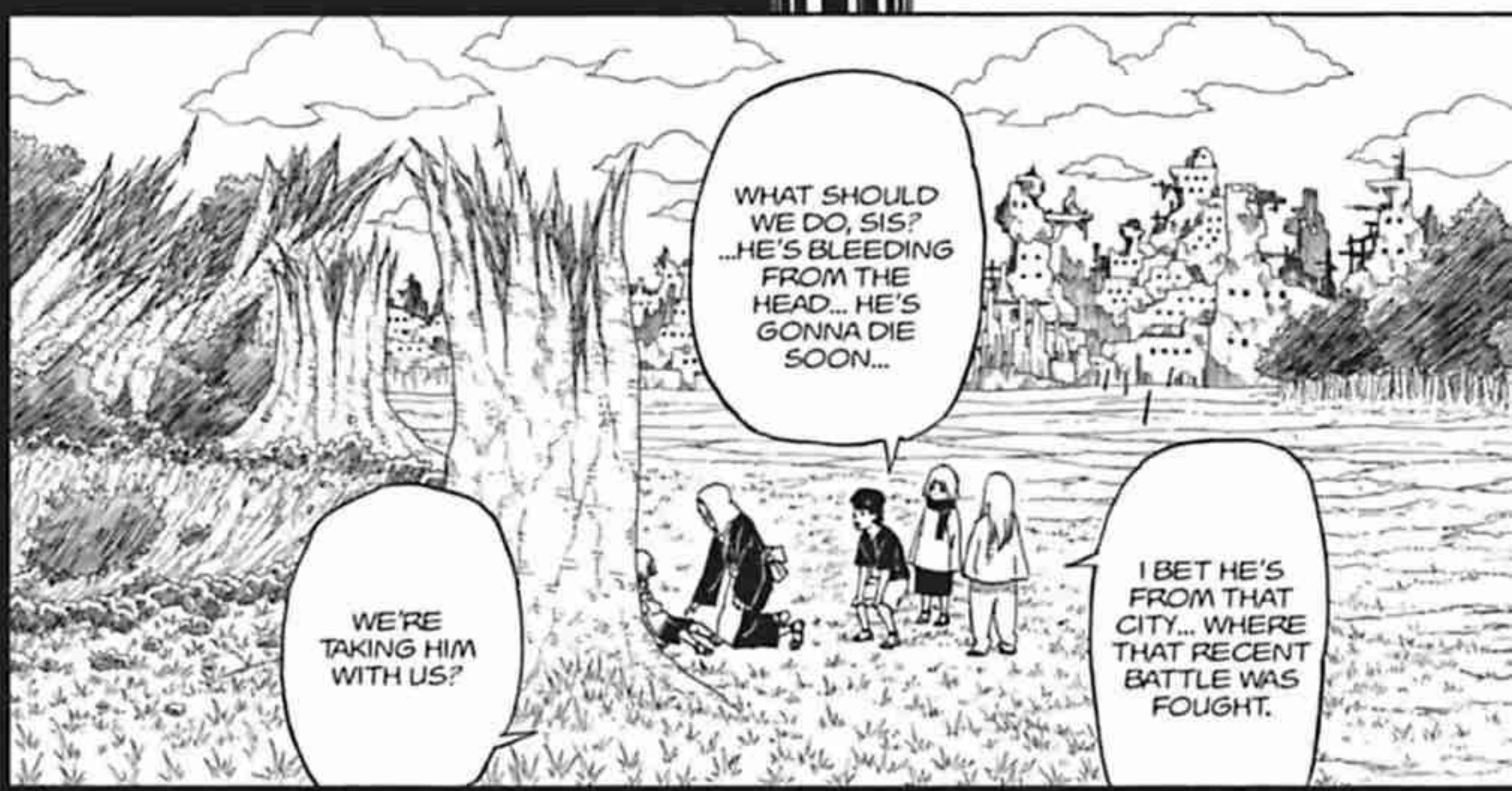
...

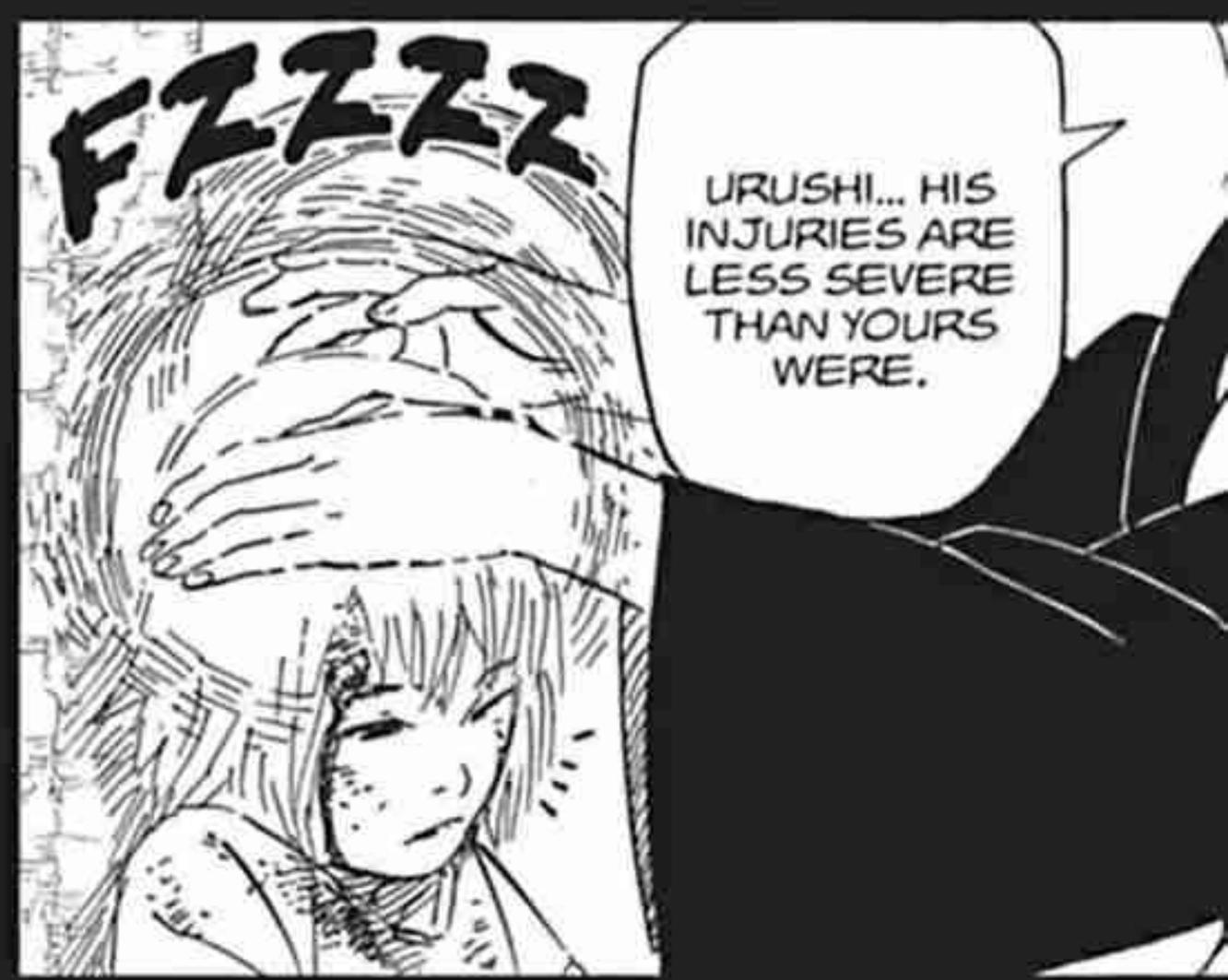

I LIED TO EVERYONE AROUND ME. I LIED TO MYSELF. I WAS DELUDED.
I MYSELF FAILED AT THAT...

...YOU NEED TO REEXAMINE AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR TRUE SELF.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...

JUST LIKE I DID.
THOSE WHO CANNOT ACKNOWLEDGE THEMSELVES SHALL FAIL.

MUF
MUF
WHAT DO YOU TWO REALLY KNOW ABOUT ME?
FOR THE LONGEST TIME...
I HAVE BEEN PURSUING WHO AND WHAT I AM, IN MY OWN WAY...





...
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

...
WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS...?

...

HERE! GRAB MY SHOULDER!
YOU SURE ARE LUCKY...

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?! GAH!
URUSHI, HELP HIM...
SHP

I DIDN'T KNOW MY PARENTS... OR EVEN MY OWN NAME.

THAT'S MY OLDEST MEMORY... I WAS NOBODY AND HAD NOTHING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

FWOOP
THERE! WEAR THIS, JUST IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU AGAIN!
OW...
HEY, SAY THANK YOU! DON'T YOU KNOW ANY MANNERS?!
...
YOUR WOUNDS APPEAR TO BE HEALING.
...OR EVEN YOUR OWN NAME. THAT'S A FIRST.
FORGET MANNERS, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR PARENTS ARE...
WAP
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK ME FOR WHATEVER YOU NEED.
STARTING RIGHT NOW, I AM YOUR MOTHER.
YOU'LL BE LIVING HERE WITH US NOW.
...

WHAT ABOUT... KABUTO? AS IN, HELMET!

THAT'S TRUE... WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD ONE...?

BUT IT'S REAL INCONVENIENT THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE A NAME...

PAT

HMM...

...

IT'S BEST NOT TO OVER-THINK THINGS, SOME-TIMES.

YOU CALLED IT JUST HOW HE LOOKS!

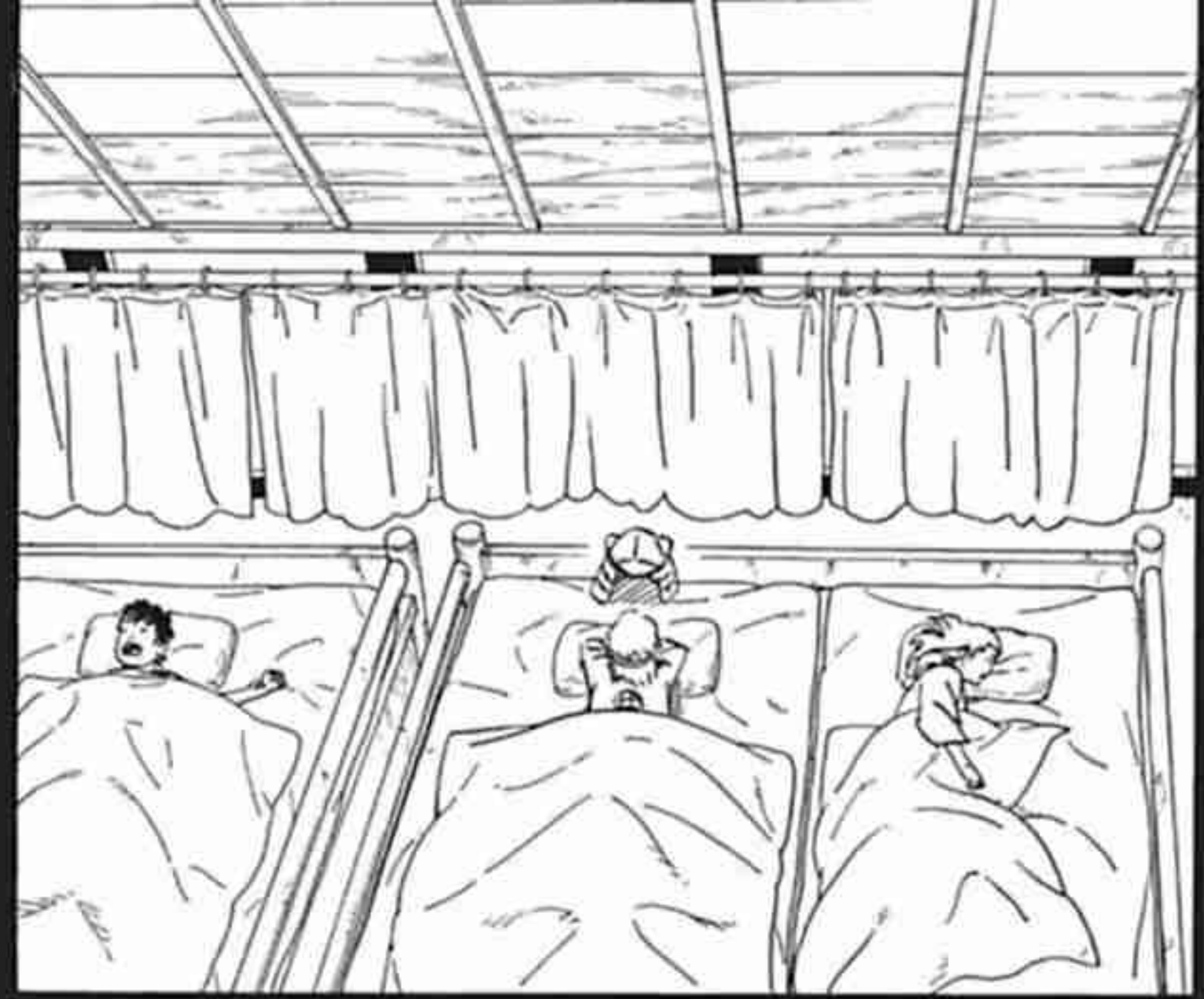
DIDN'T THINK TOO HARD ON THAT ONE...

SO SIMPLE!!

OH, GOOD...

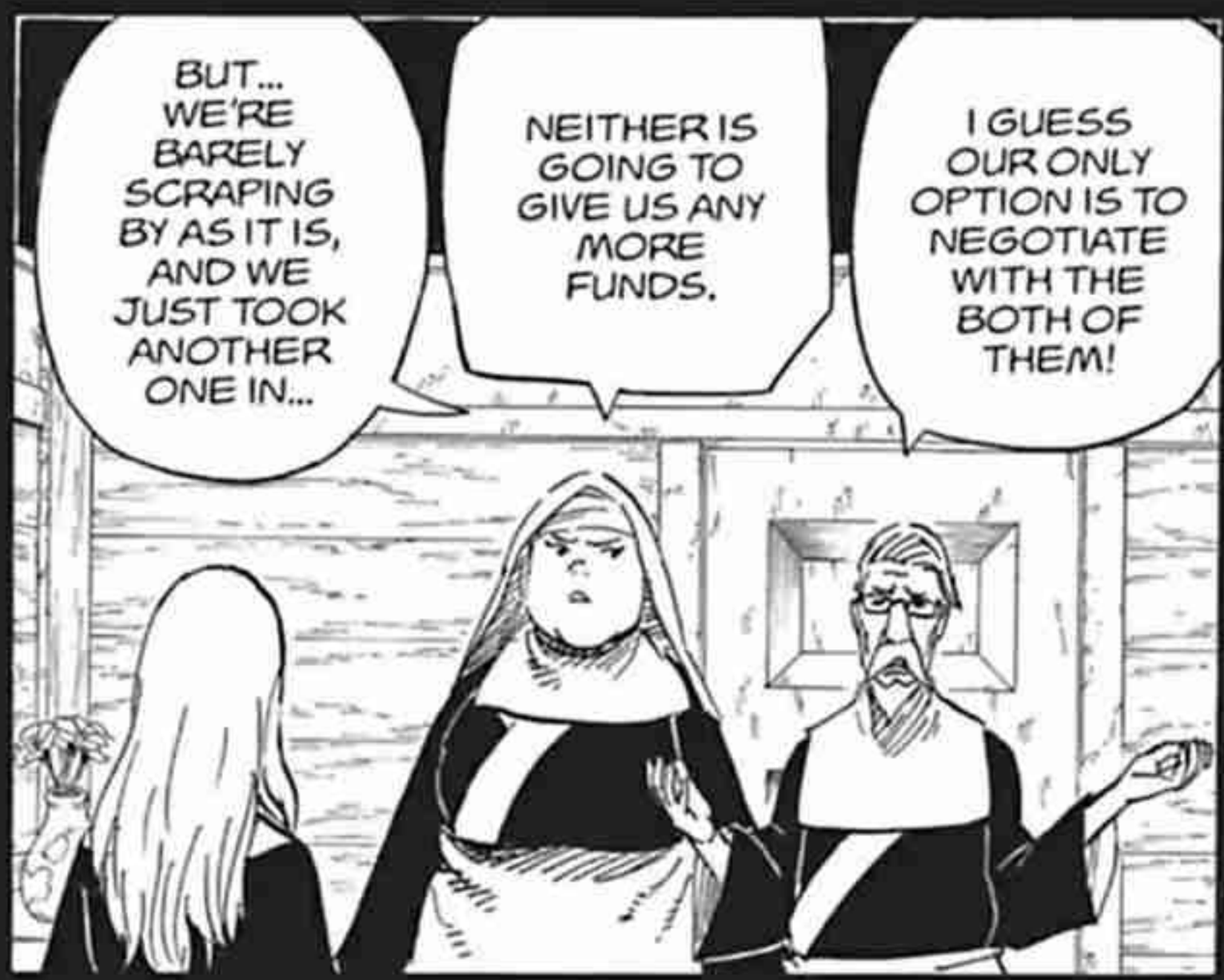
HEY! HE JUST SMILED!

HE LIKES HIS NAME!



SHUP

HEY, SAY THANK YOU! DON'T YOU KNOW ANY MANNERS?!


BUT... WE'RE BARELY SCRAPING BY AS IT IS, AND WE JUST TOOK ANOTHER ONE IN...
NEITHER IS GOING TO GIVE US ANY MORE FUNDS.
I GUESS OUR ONLY OPTION IS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BOTH OF THEM!

WE CAN'T GET BY ON JUST THE ASSISTANCE MONEY FROM NATION AND THE VILLAGE ANYMORE...

ALL RIGHT... I'LL DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT...
THERE-FORE...
THWUD

...

...

KLAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS LATE HOUR?
YOU SHOULD BE ASLEEP!
!!
WUMP

OW...
!
!

GAH... YOU ARE TOO INDULGENT, MOTHER...
PLEASE, HE DOESN'T KNOW.
THIS CHILD JUST GOT HERE, SO HE DOESN'T KNOW OUR DAILY SCHEDULE OR RULES YET.
SHUP...

...!!

IT'S 20 MINUTES PAST LIGHTS-OUT TIME!

12 9 3 6

COME, LOOK HERE AT THIS CLOCK!

...

WELL, WHAT TIME IS IT?

SAY IT OUT LOUD SO YOU CAN REMEMBER IT!

WHICH MAKES LIGHTS-OUT WHAT TIME?

LET'S LEARN THIS RIGHT NOW!

THIS CHILD IS STILL YOUNG... IT'S NOT HIS FAULT HE CAN'T READ A CLOCK, MUCH LESS DO CALCULATIONS...

LET'S JUST CALL IT A DAY...

!

JOLINT

!
NINE O'CLOCK...
!
THAT IS CORRECT.

GAH... WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE JUST TOLD US HE COULDN'T SEE WELL?
FEH... AND WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET THE MONEY FOR THAT?!

HE'S SMART FOR HIS AGE...! HE'S GOING TO NEED GLASSES!
HA HA... IT APPEARS HE JUST HAS BAD VISION!

I JUST HOPE THAT THE LENSES ARE THE CORRECT STRENGTH.

KLK

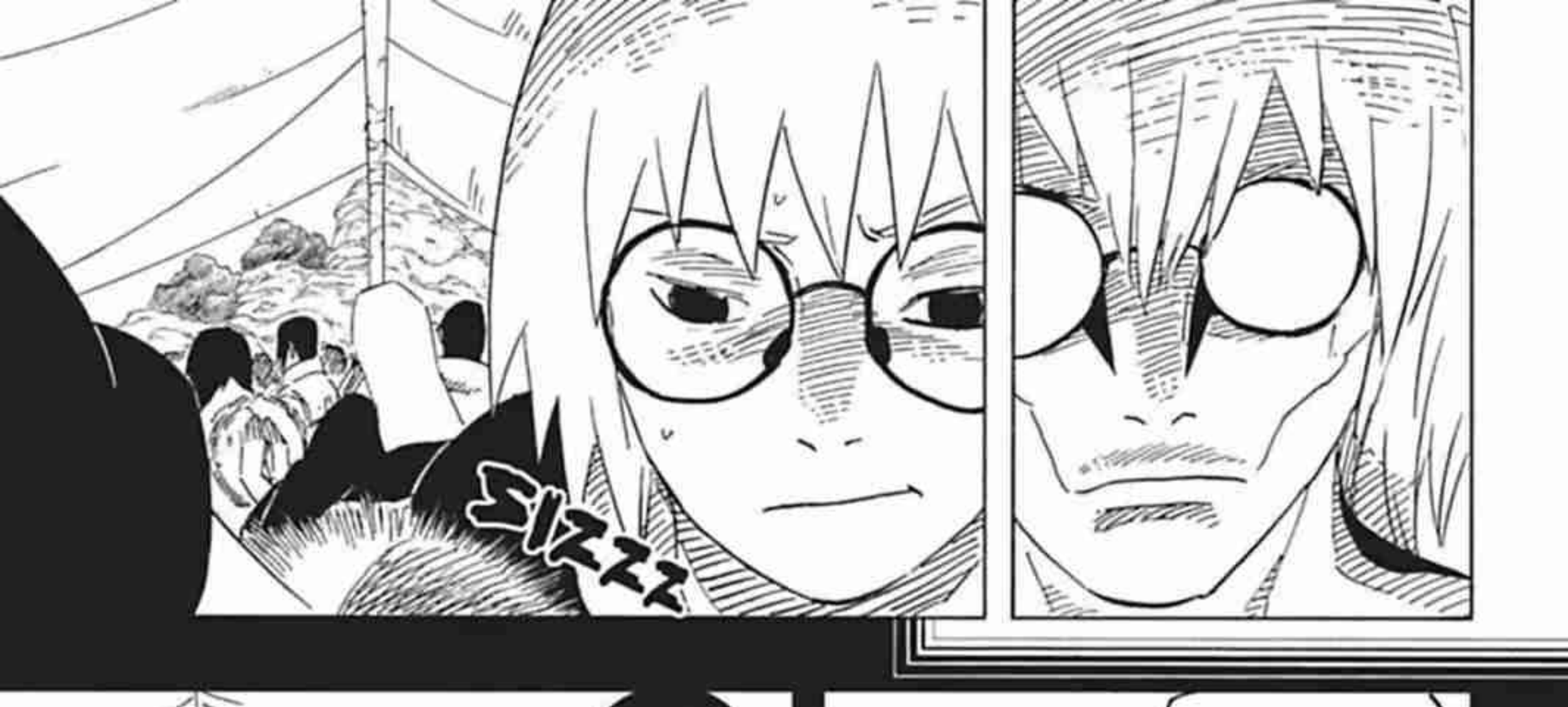
YOU CAN BE MINDFUL OF THE TIME FROM NOW ON, RIGHT?

QIK...

FROM THE GET-GO... I WAS NOBODY.

THANK YOU...

THANK YOU...


ゴルゴゴ

EVEN IF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE HOUSE, WHY DO WE KIDS HAVE TO HELP THE SHINOBI?
ARE YOU OKAY TO KEEP GOING, KABUTO?
YES, MOTHER!
SIZZZ
MOTHER TAUGHT ME.
YOU'RE NOT A SHINOBI, BUT YOU ARE QUITE SKILLED WITH YOUR MEDICAL NINJUTSU...
ALL RIGHT.
COULD YOU GO GET ME SOME BANDAGE WRAPS, URUSHI?
BECAUSE MONEY DOESN'T JUST GROW ON TREES...
YOU SHOULD BECOME A SHINOBI. YOU'D MAKE A GOOD ONE.
KABUTO... WAS IT...?

I'M SURE OF IT.

Number 583: Who Are You?

I JUST WANT TO HELP EARN THE MONEY FOR THE ORPHANAGE TO STAY OPEN SO I CAN STAY AND HELP MOTHER WITH HER WORK.

NO, BUT THANK YOU.

SHE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR ME... AND ALL I'VE DONE IS BUY HER NEW GLASSES.

...? REALLY... WHAT A SHAME.

...YOU SEEM A BIT TIRED, NONOU.

SEEING YOU AGAIN AFTER SO LONG...

I KNOW TALKS WITH KONOHA FOR AID MONEY WERE CONCLUDED ALREADY... SO WHY ARE YOU HERE...?!

I CAST ASIDE THAT NAME LONG AGO.

IN THIS TIME OF WAR, WE HAVE OBTAINED INTEL THAT IWAGAKURE IS PLOTTING SOME LARGE-SCALE OPERATION.

WE DID NOT COME HERE ONLY IN REGARD TO THE AID MONEY.

IT SEEMS YOU, WHO WERE THE ESPIONAGE UNIT'S TOP SPY, STOPPED KNOWING THINGS AS SOON AS YOU LEFT THE FOUNDATION...

IT WILL LIKELY BE A LONG-TERM MISSION.
...
AND IF IT DOES TURN OUT TO BE TRUE...
...YOU ARE TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO US WHAT THIS OPERATION ENTAILS AND WHEN AND WHERE IT WILL OCCUR.

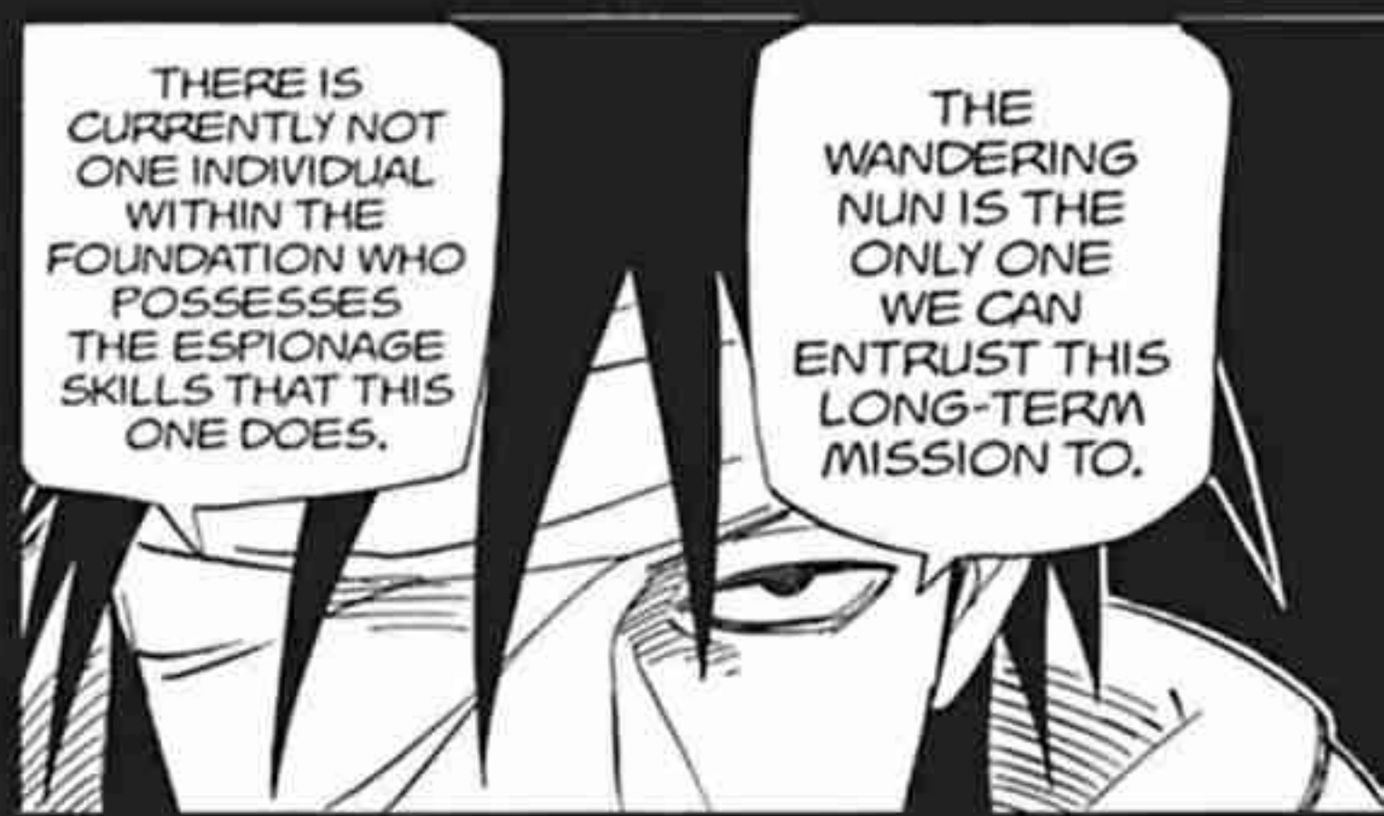
WE WANT YOU TO INFILTRATE IWAGAKURE...
?!
...AND FIND OUT IF THAT INFORMATION IS CORRECT OR NOT.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO ASK THE MOTHER ...?!
SUCH A DANGEROUS TASK... YOU FOUNDATION PEOPLE OUGHT TO DO IT YOURSELVES!

...HOW VALUABLE MOTHER'S PRESENCE IS TO THIS ORPHANAGE AND THE CHILDREN HERE!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL...
MOTHER HAS WORKED DESPERATELY HARD TO PROTECT THIS ORGANIZATION!

YOU'VE COME TO THE WRONG WOMAN.
I AM NO LONGER

BUT I KNOW THAT SHE IS NOT A KUNOICHI WHO WOULD EVER SELL KONOHA OUT.
MOST EITHER BREAK OR END UP SWITCHING ALLEGIANCES.


THERE IS CURRENTLY NOT ONE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE FOUNDATION WHO POSSESSES THE ESPIONAGE SKILLS THAT THIS ONE DOES.
THE WANDERING NUN IS THE ONLY ONE WE CAN ENTRUST THIS LONG-TERM MISSION TO.

BUT!! WE'VE ALREADY RECEIVED THE THIRD LORD HOKAGE'S ASSURANCE!

THERE'S NO WAY THIS WILL BE ALLOWED!

FROM YOUR EXPRESSION, I CAN TELL YOU'VE ALREADY GUESSED IT... NONOU.

THAT'S RIGHT... IF YOU REFUSE, MONEY WILL STOP COMING INTO THE ORPHANAGE.

CHILDREN WITH NO PAST OR FAMILY ARE WORTH SOMETHING, YOU KNOW...

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TAKE CARE THAT YOUR CHILDREN NOT GET SNATCHED, EITHER.

I RECOMMEND YOU HIRE A GUARD OR TWO TO PREVENT YOUR MONEY FROM GETTING STOLEN.

THIS ORPHANAGE LOOKS EASY TO BREAK INTO AND PLUNDER...

THAT IS, IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT.

?!

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU ALL ARE DASTARDLY!!

HOW DARE YOU CALL YOURSELVES SHINOBI!!

MOTHER !!
I... ACCEDE.
...

YOU REALLY AREN'T SUITED FOR THE FOUNDATION AFTER ALL.
IT'S COME TO THIS BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T KILL YOUR EMOTIONS.

HOW DARE YOU...!

IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY...
...FOR THE WELL-BEING OF KONOHA.

...

...

HOW FAR WILL YOU GO ...?!!

I TOLD YOU I WOULD ACCEPT THE MISSION!!

I'LL TAKE ONE OF THESE CHILDREN TO REPLACE THEM!

I'VE ALREADY LOST A SUBORDINATE OBTAINING THIS INTEL...

!!

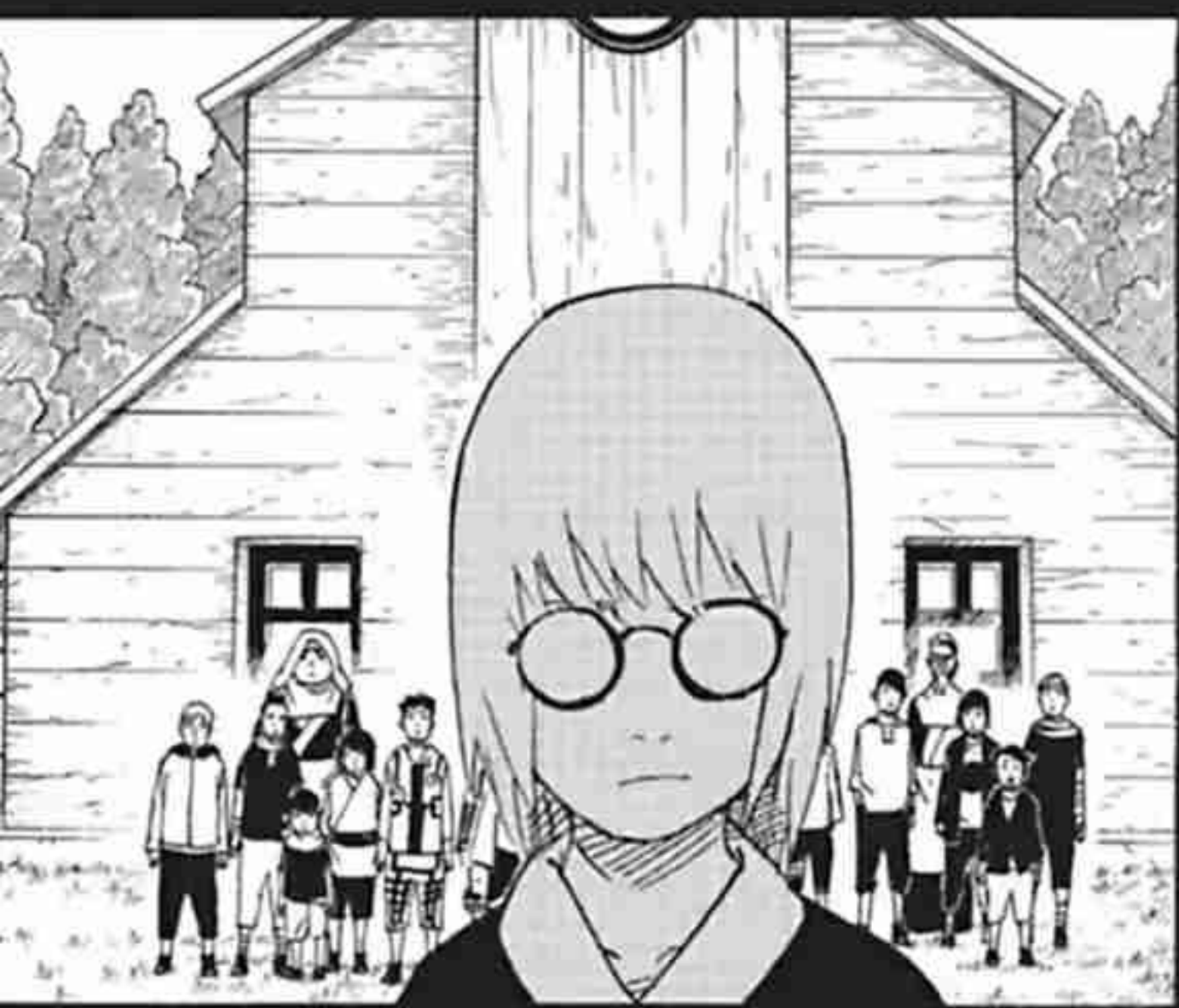
YOU OUGHT TO ASK THEM TO CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES. I CAN AT LEAST GIVE YOU THAT.

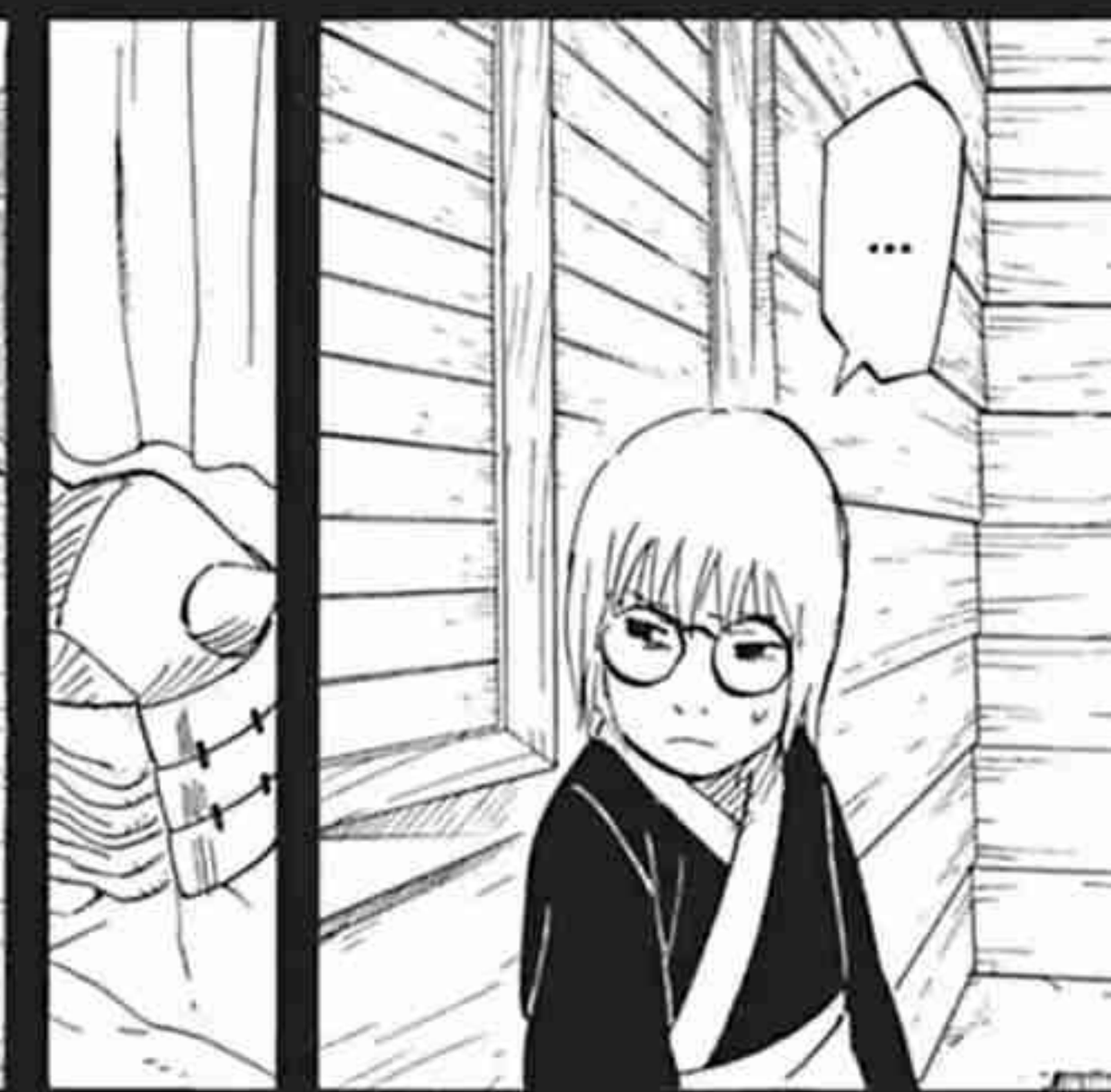
IT'S NOT SO BAD. SOME CHILDREN ACTUALLY WISH TO BE SHINOBI AFTER ALL.

YOUR MISSION SHALL COVER SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS...

BUT THIS CURRENT ONE IS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CHILD.

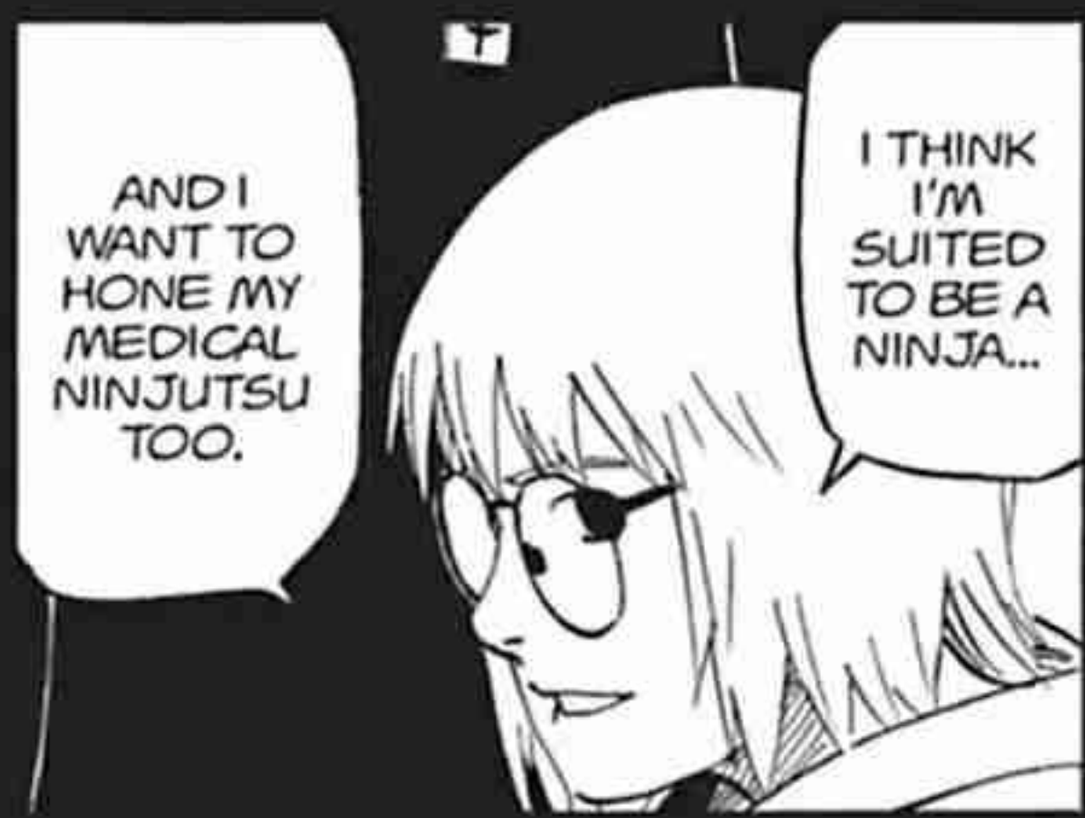
THIS IS A SEPARATE MATTER.





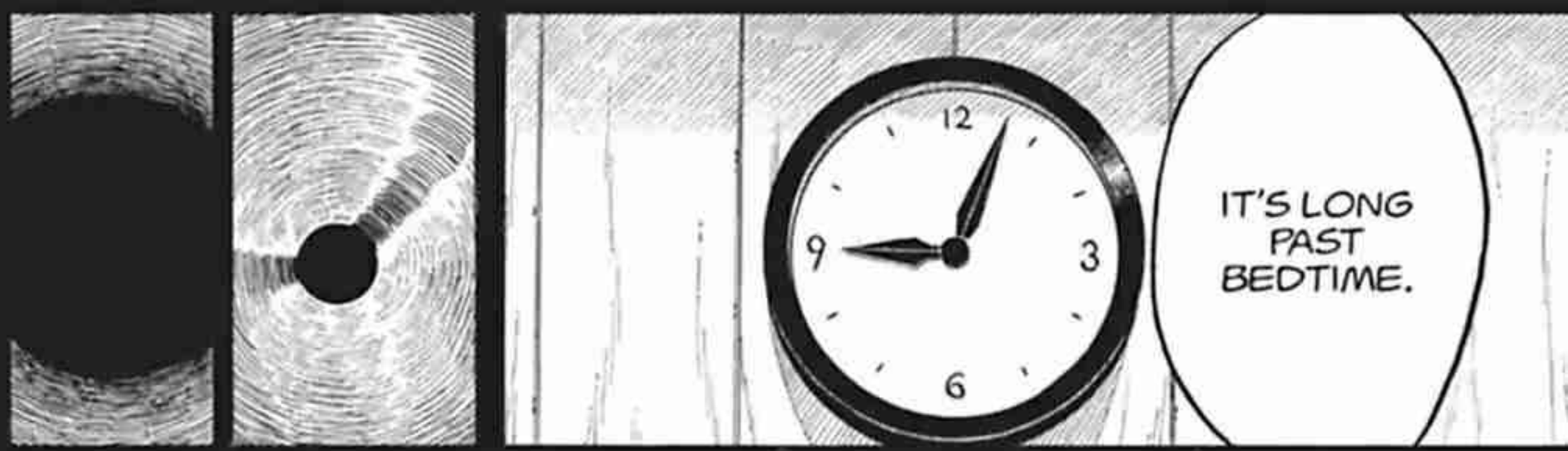
WHY, KABUTO ?

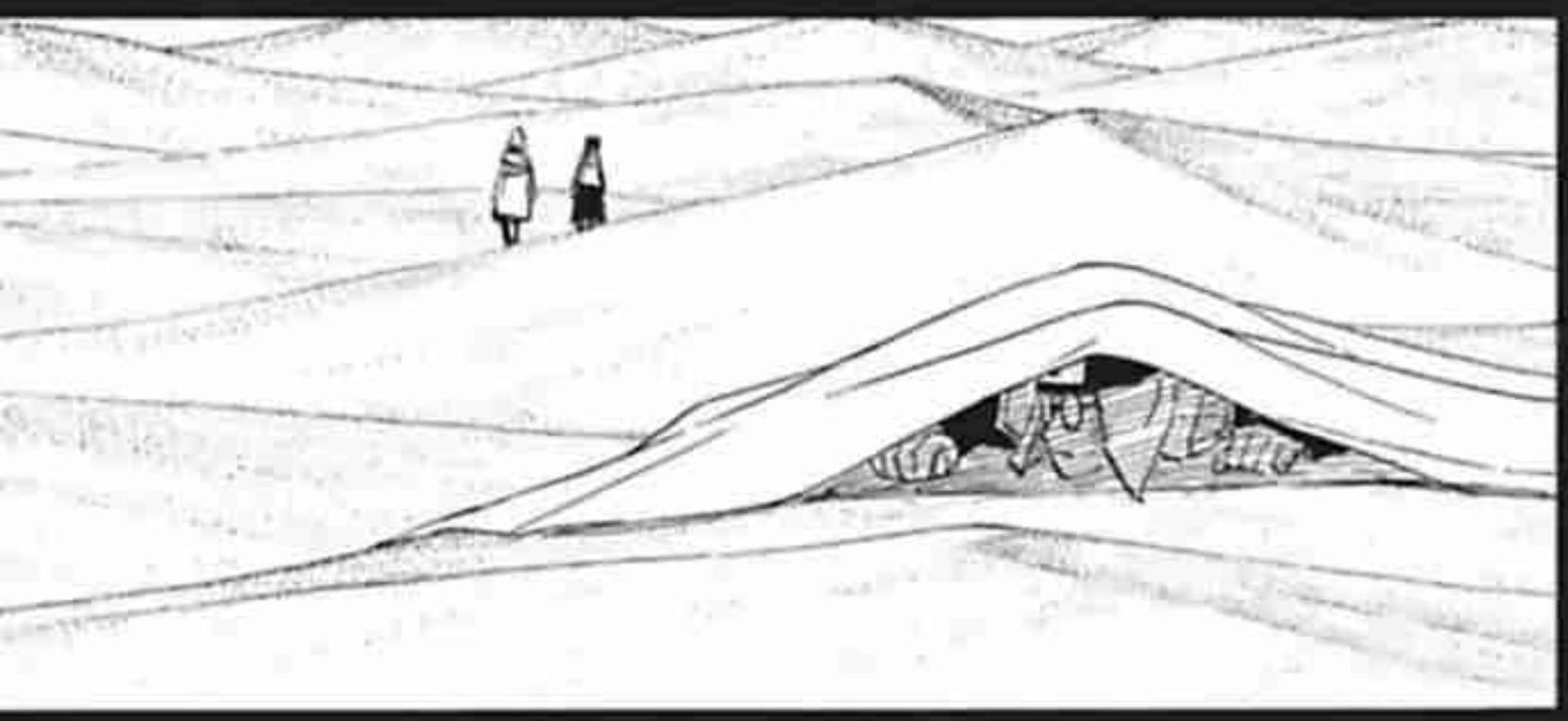
SHUP

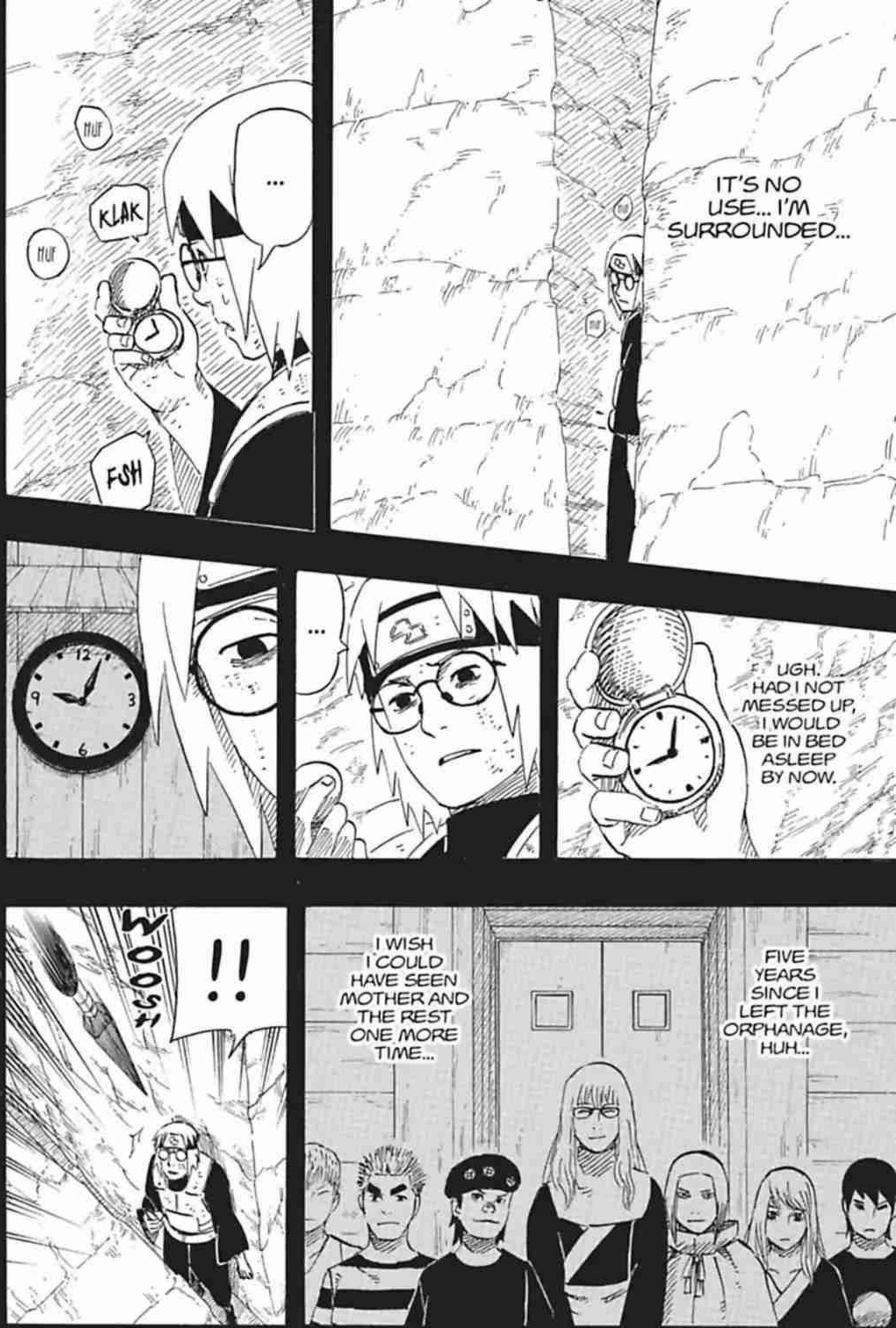

AND I WANT TO HONE MY MEDICAL NINJUTSU TOO.
I THINK I'M SUITED TO BE A NINJA...

HAVE YOU ALL FORGOTTEN THE HOUSE RULES?

COME BACK HERE!
KABUTO! YOU'RE GONNA JUST THROW AWAY THE THREE YEARS YOU SPENT WITH US?


12
9
3
6
IT'S LONG PAST BEDTIME.




MUF
KLAK
MUF
FSH
...
IT'S NO USE... I'M SURROUNDED...
...
UGH. HAD I NOT MESSED UP, I WOULD BE IN BED ASLEEP BY NOW.
!!
I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN MOTHER AND THE REST ONE MORE TIME...
FIVE YEARS SINCE I LEFT THE ORPHANAGE, HUH...

UNGH!

THK

THK

MOTHER ?!

SIZZZZ
FWP

NO!! WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
SHUP

WHY ARE... YOU HEALING... MY WOUNDS...?
SIZZZZ
UNH...
WHO... ARE YOU...?

SHE'S BEEN ON THE SAME MISSION ALL THIS TIME?!
!

...?

IT'S ME, MOTHER!!
SIZZZZ

!!
FSH

SIZZ

...

DON'T WORRY, I SWEAR I'LL SAVE YOU!
IT'S ME, KABUTO !!
KLAK

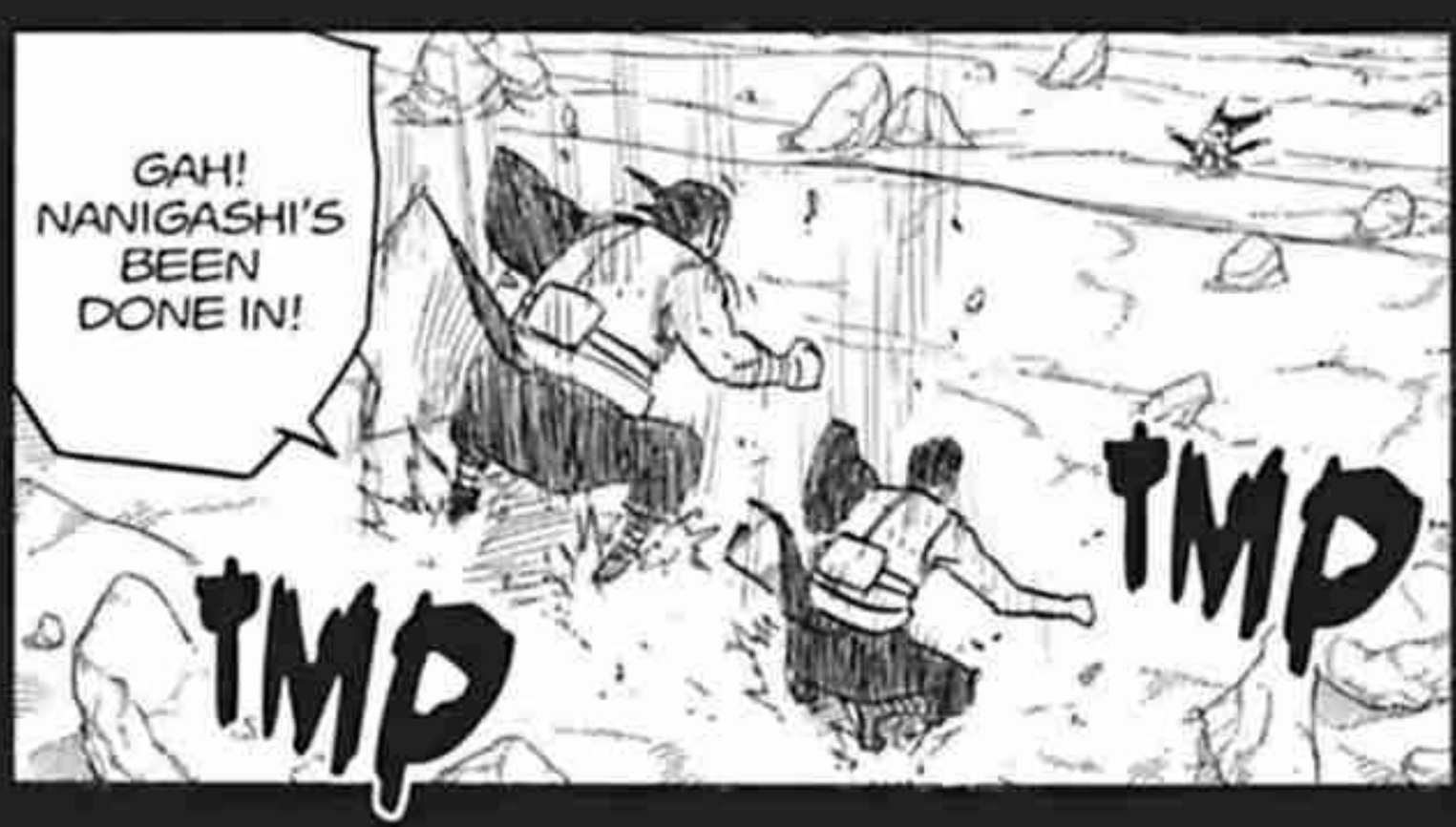
...ARE YOU...?
WHO...

SIZ...

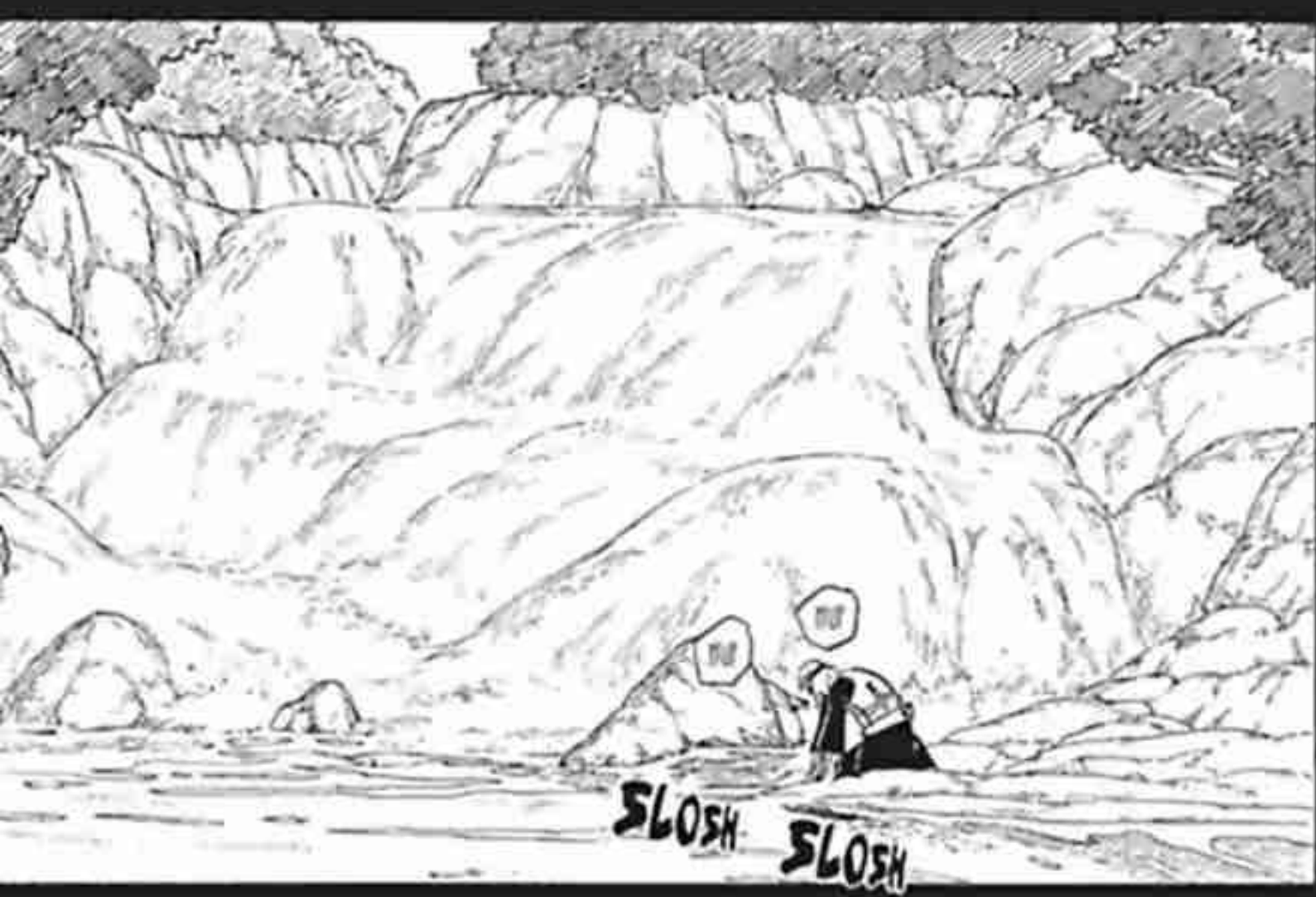
SIZZZ...

THIS WAY!
SHOOM SHOOM

...


GAH! NANIGASHI'S BEEN DONE IN!
TMP
TMP

!
TA K
!


SLOSH SLOSH

SLOSH
SLOSH

WHY...?
MOTHER DIDN'T KNOW ME...

EVEN THESE GLASSES...
FSH
MY NAME, THAT I WAS ONE OF MOTHER'S CHILDREN...
WHAT WERE ALL THOSE THINGS I RECEIVED FROM MOTHER?!

IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW ME, THEN WHO AM I?!

HOW COME...?
WHY DIDN'T SHE REMEMBER ME...?!

KLAK

BLUR...

...ARE YOU...?

WHO...

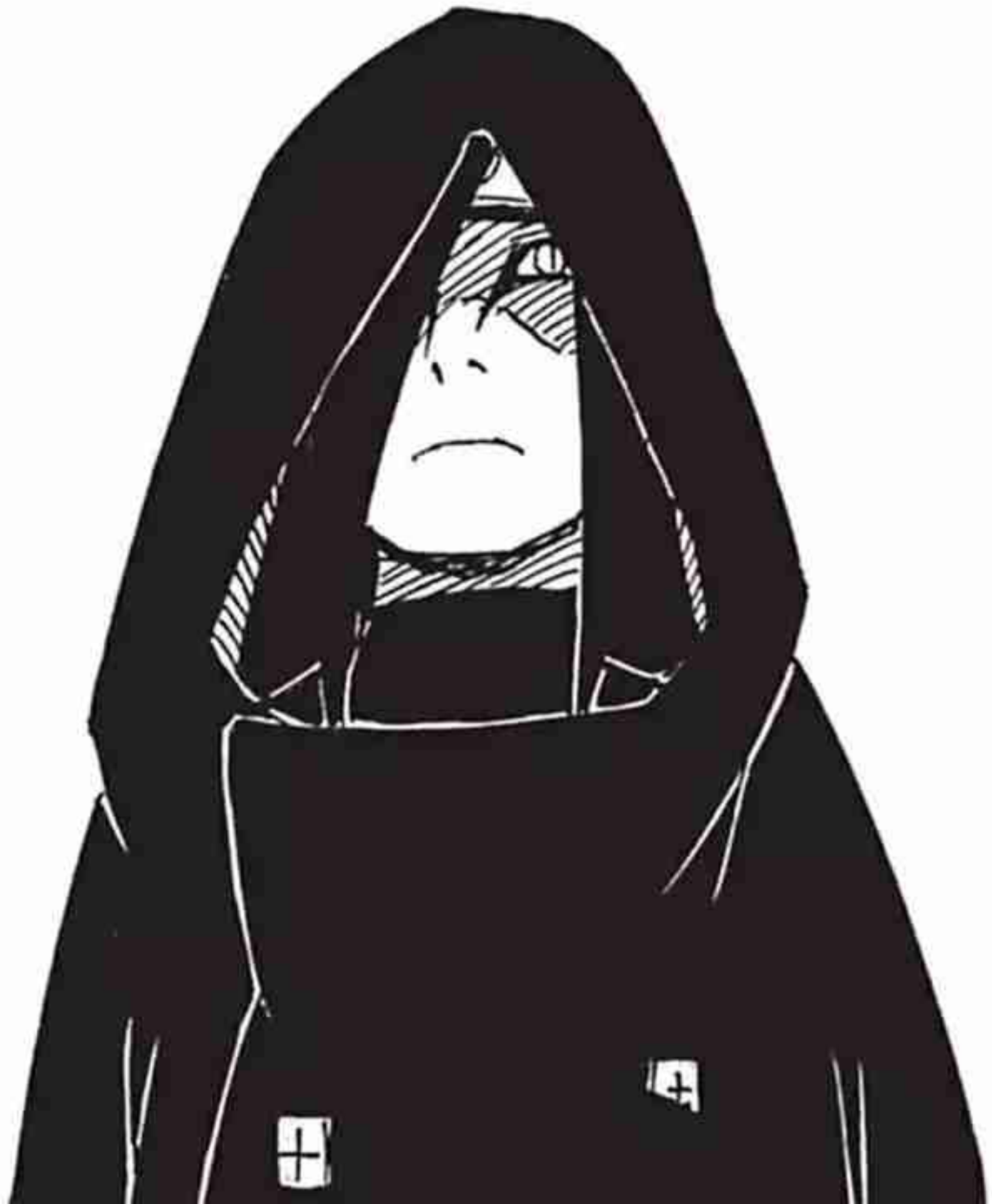
...

YOU NO LONGER SEE YOURSELF CLEARLY.

NOT THE REAL ME...
THIS ISN'T ME...

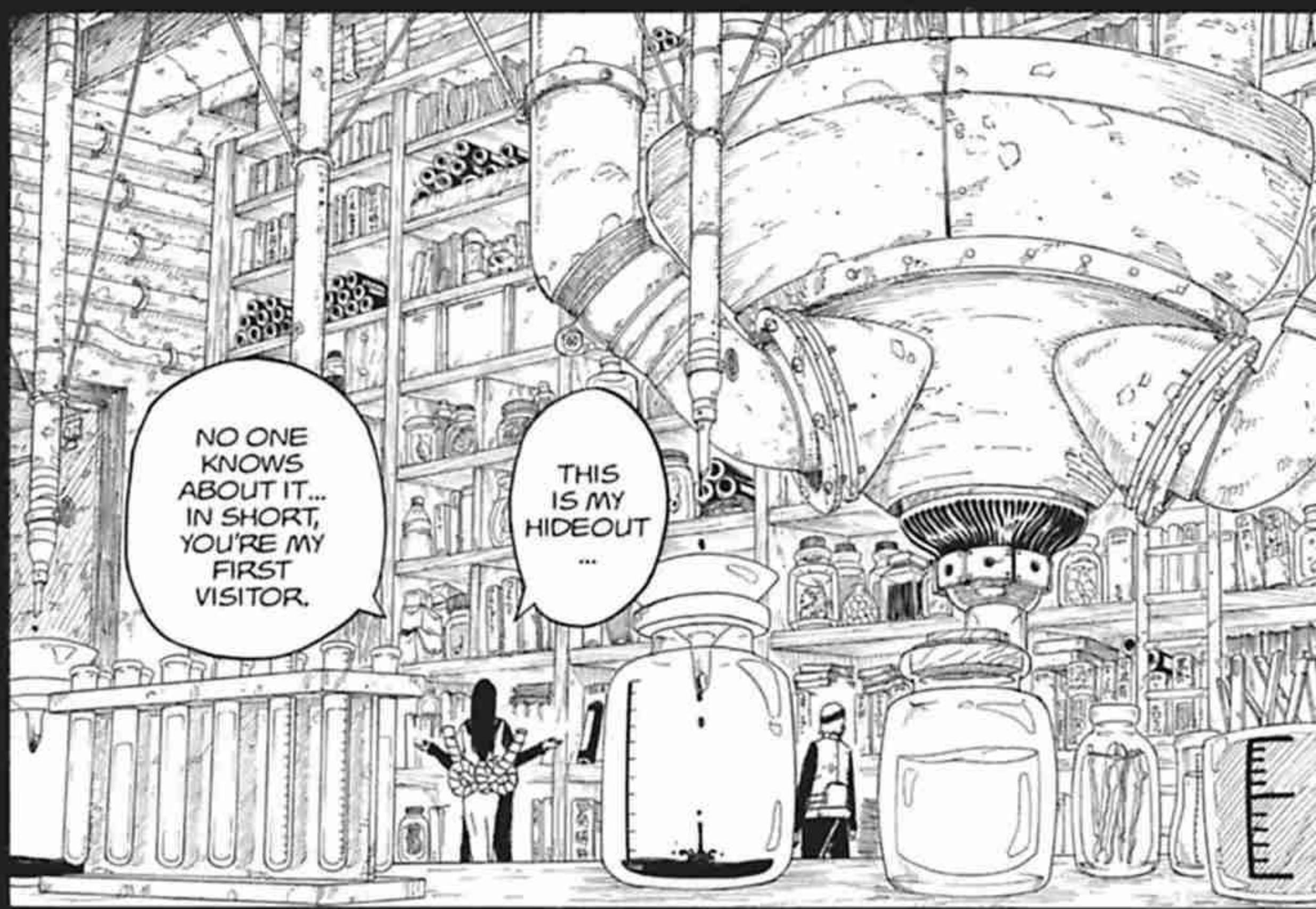
HOW

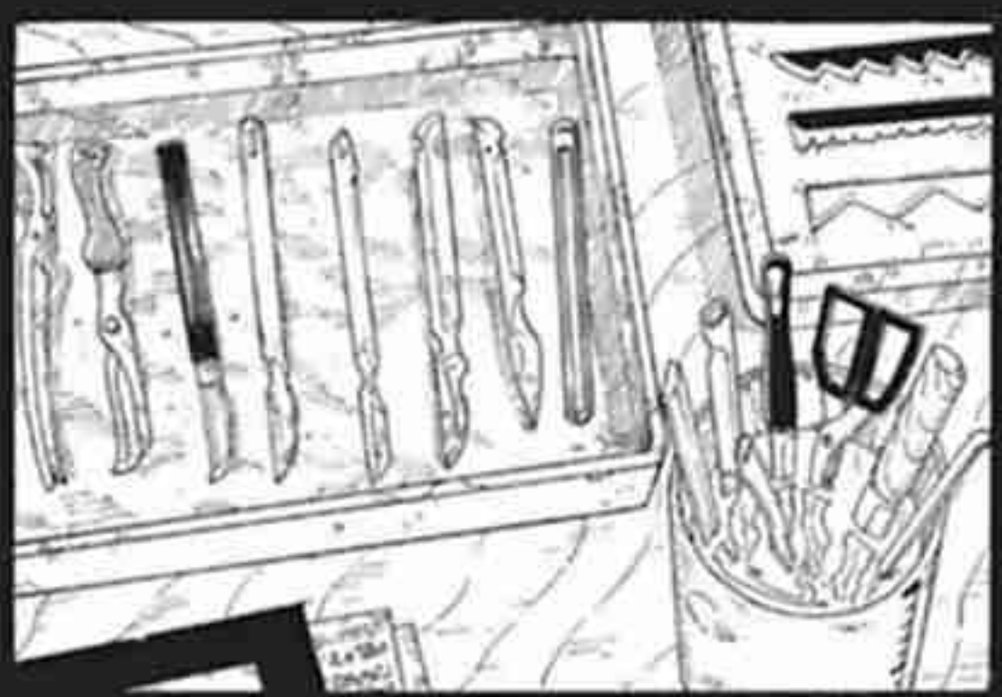
KLAK
?!!
WOO
SH
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE A FINE SHINOBI...
I REMEMBER YOU... KABUTO.
WHAM

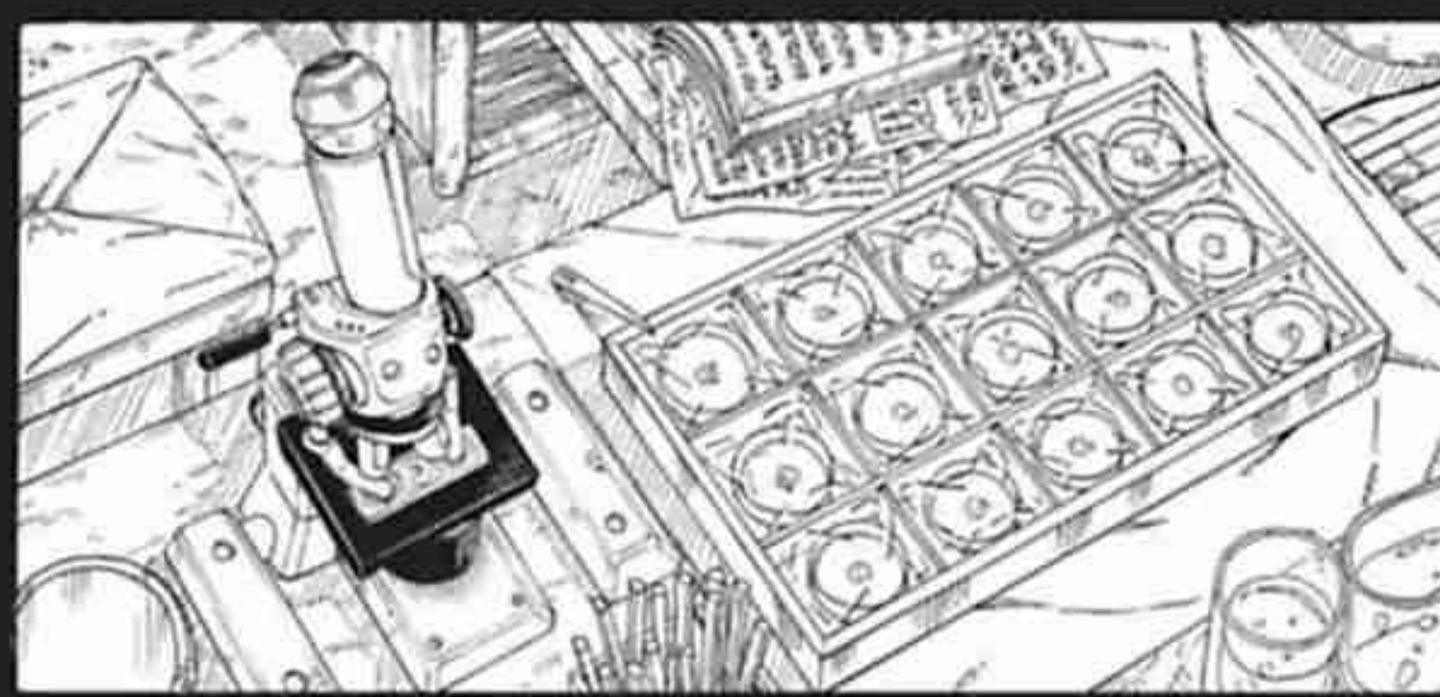


Number 584: Yakushi Kabuto

...
SHF
SHF


NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT IT... IN SHORT, YOU'RE MY FIRST VISITOR.
THIS IS MY HIDEOUT ...





YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!!

THEN HURRY UP AND TELL ME!

FSH

IT SEEMS... THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS YOU HAVE KEEPS INCREASING... THAT'S A GOOD THING.

PEOPLE CANNOT ESCAPE THEIR DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE... WHICH IS WHY YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE.

SHUP

WHY'D YOU BRING ME HERE?! WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

?!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

THE FOUNDATION HAD DECIDED TO DISPOSE OF BOTH YOU AND MOTHER.

SHUP

TO BE BLUNT...

...?!

YOU TWO WERE TOO BRILLIANT AS SPIES...

YOU ENDED UP KNOWING TOO MUCH.

THAT YOU TWO WOULD EVENTUALLY END UP AS SO.

ALTHOUGH IT HAD BEEN DECIDED FROM THE GET-GO...

IT WAS ALSO IN THE SCRIPT FOR YOU TO KILL EACH OTHER IN A MUTUAL STRIKE...

IN SOME CASES, INFORMATION CAN POSSESS MORE MIGHT THAN POWERFUL JUTSU OR WEAPONS...

AT THIS POINT, YOU ARE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS ENTITIES.

...BUT!

!!

THEY MADE US RISK OUR LIVES FOR SO LONG TO GATHER INTEL FOR OUR VILLAGE... AND THIS IS WHAT WE GET...?!!

THAT YOU GAVE YOURSELF TO THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ORPHANAGE'S MONEY.

...DANZO REVEALED TO MOTHER THE REAL REASON WHY YOU HAD LEFT.

RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT THE ORPHANAGE...

...BUT THAT ASSASSINATION TARGET WAS ACTUALLY *YOU.*

IT'S QUITE IRONIC...

?!

MOTHER WISHED TO LIBERATE YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION.

AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTING HER WISH...

DANZO ORDERED HER SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO ASSASSINATE A CERTAIN MAN.

I DON'T GET IT?!

AND WHY DIDN'T MOTHER REALIZE IT WAS ME?!

I THOUGHT IT WAS THE CONDITION FOR MY RELEASE?!

FWAP

TRICKERY ?!

AND THERE WAS OTHER TRICKERY AFOOT TOO...

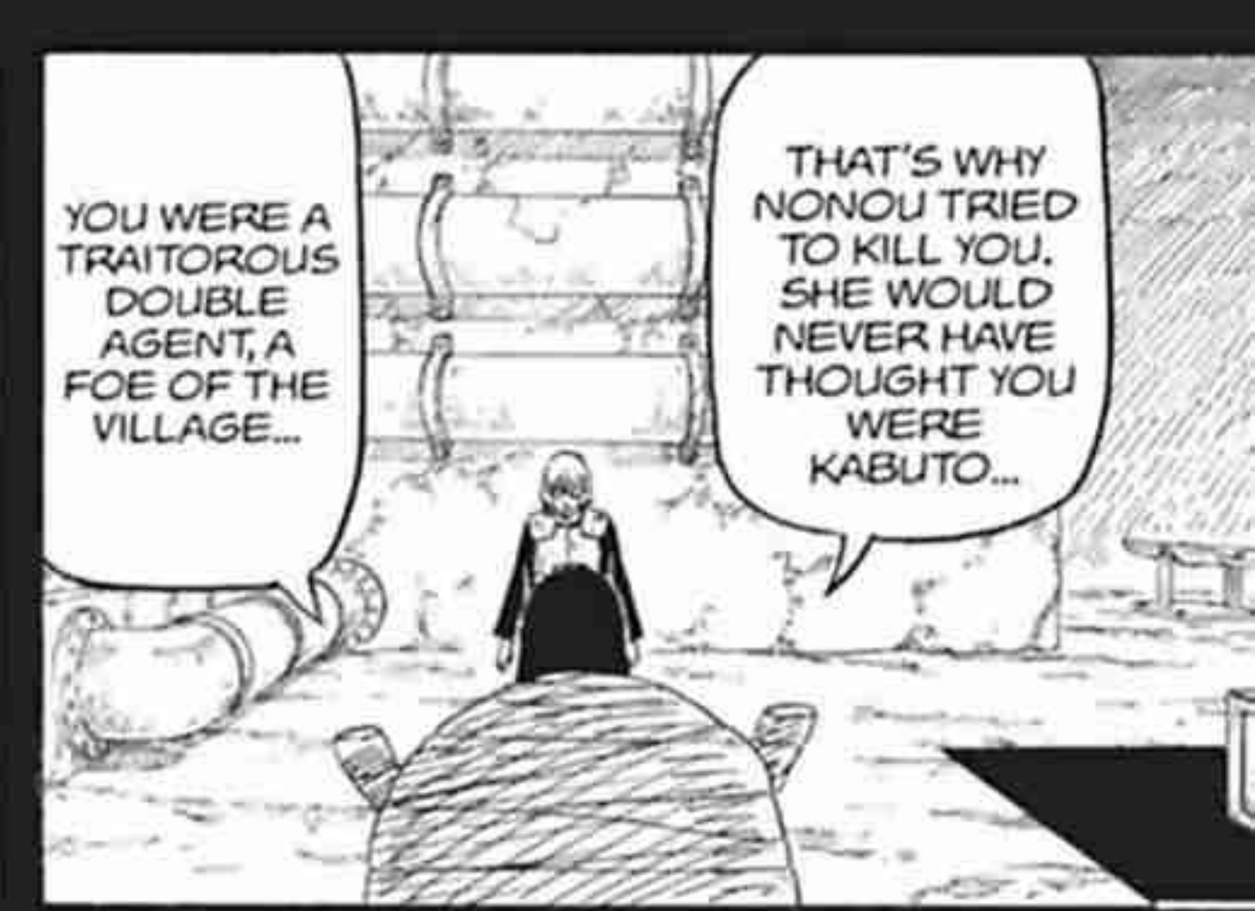
I TOLD YOU... THE FOUNDATION INTENDED FOR YOU TWO TO TAKE EACH OTHER OUT.

FWIP

YOU AND MOTHER WERE SENT INTO SEPARATE ENEMY TERRITORIES SO THAT YOU TWO...

...WOULD NEVER MEET, AND MOTHER WAS KEPT INFORMED OF YOUR WELL-BEING AND PROGRESS VIA PHOTOS.

FWIP



FLIP
FLIP
YOU'RE QUICK ON THE UPTAKE, DESPITE NOT REALLY KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF...
SINNS
SIZZZ
WUMP
THWAK

WHOO
BUT THANKS TO YOU FOUNDATION BASTARDS, I'VE LOST MYSELF AGAIN!
AND I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FOUND IT!
I'VE LONG WANTED SOMETHING TO DEFINE MYSELF BY!
HUF
HUF

THEN... WHO IN THE WORLD...

BUT EVERY-THING'S WRONG!!

THK

BAM

MOTHER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE PARENT THAT DIDN'T FORGET ME, NO MATTER WHAT!

THIS BESTOWED NAME WAS MINE AND MINE ALONE!

THESE GLASSES WERE WHAT LINKED MOTHER AND ME!

BAM

WHAM

BAM

...AM I ?!!

WAH!

WAH!

WAH!

WAH!

!

BZP ...

BZP BZP

SQU ICH

YOU MERELY LACK SUFFICIENT INTEL WITH WHICH TO DEFINE YOURSELF.

IT'S JUST THAT NEITHER THE GLASSES, YOUR NAME, NOR THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A CHILD WERE THINGS THAT DENOTE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

THUMP

...

...WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?!

IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO KILL ME...

IF YOU'RE NOT SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU'VE HAD SO FAR...

JUST FIND OTHER THINGS AND ADD THEM TO YOURSELF FROM HERE ON OUT.

AND THAT'S FINE.

DRIP DRIP

SPLICH

!

SO I'VE BEEN GATHERING ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

I TOO WANT TO KNOW WHO OR WHAT I AM.

SHUP

AND THEN, I UNDERGO REBIRTH, EVER EVOLVING...
...TOWARD A NEW, MORE PERFECT ME.

...AND STORE THE GAINED KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES WITHIN MYSELF.
I REPEATEDLY EXPERIMENT ON AND INSPECT THESE MANY THINGS THAT I'VE COLLECTED A LITTLE AT A TIME...
DRIP
DRIP

...IT'S YOU.

THIS TIME...
AFTERWARD, I AGAIN OBTAIN EVEN NEWER ITEMS, AND SO ON.

BUT WHY... AM I ONE OF THOSE THINGS TO YOU?

...DERIVE WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE BY GATHERING ALL THE INTEL AND THINGS THAT EXIST IN THIS WORLD.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULDN'T...

...

TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION, A VILLAGE, WHICH CELEBRATES INDIVIDUALITY, AS OPPOSED TO THE FOUNDATION THAT ERASES THE SELF.

THE VILLAGE OF OTOGAKURE, WHICH SHALL BELONG TO NO NATION.

AND BESIDES, THIS IS A MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION FACILITY THAT I PREPARED JUST FOR YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?

BECAUSE I RECOGNIZE AND VALUE YOUR TALENT MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE... IT WOULD BE A WASTE TO KILL YOU.

AS THE CHILD OF YAKUSHI NONOU, WHO OUTWARDLY BECAME A MEDICAL CORPS CAPTAIN AFTER RETURNING TO DANZO... AS OF TODAY...

SHUP

SHUP

THIS IS YOUR NEW PERSONAL HISTORY...

WHEN STILL VERY YOUNG YOU WERE FOUND, ADOPTED, AND RAISED BY A MEDICAL CORPS CAPTAIN FOLLOWING THE BATTLE AT KIKYO PASS.

AND ALSO STARTING NOW, I SHALL BE YOUR SUPERIOR, YOUR SIBLING, AND YOUR PARENT.

AS OF THIS MOMENT, YOU AND I WILL DESERT KONOHA'S FOUNDATION.

I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM DANZO...

!!

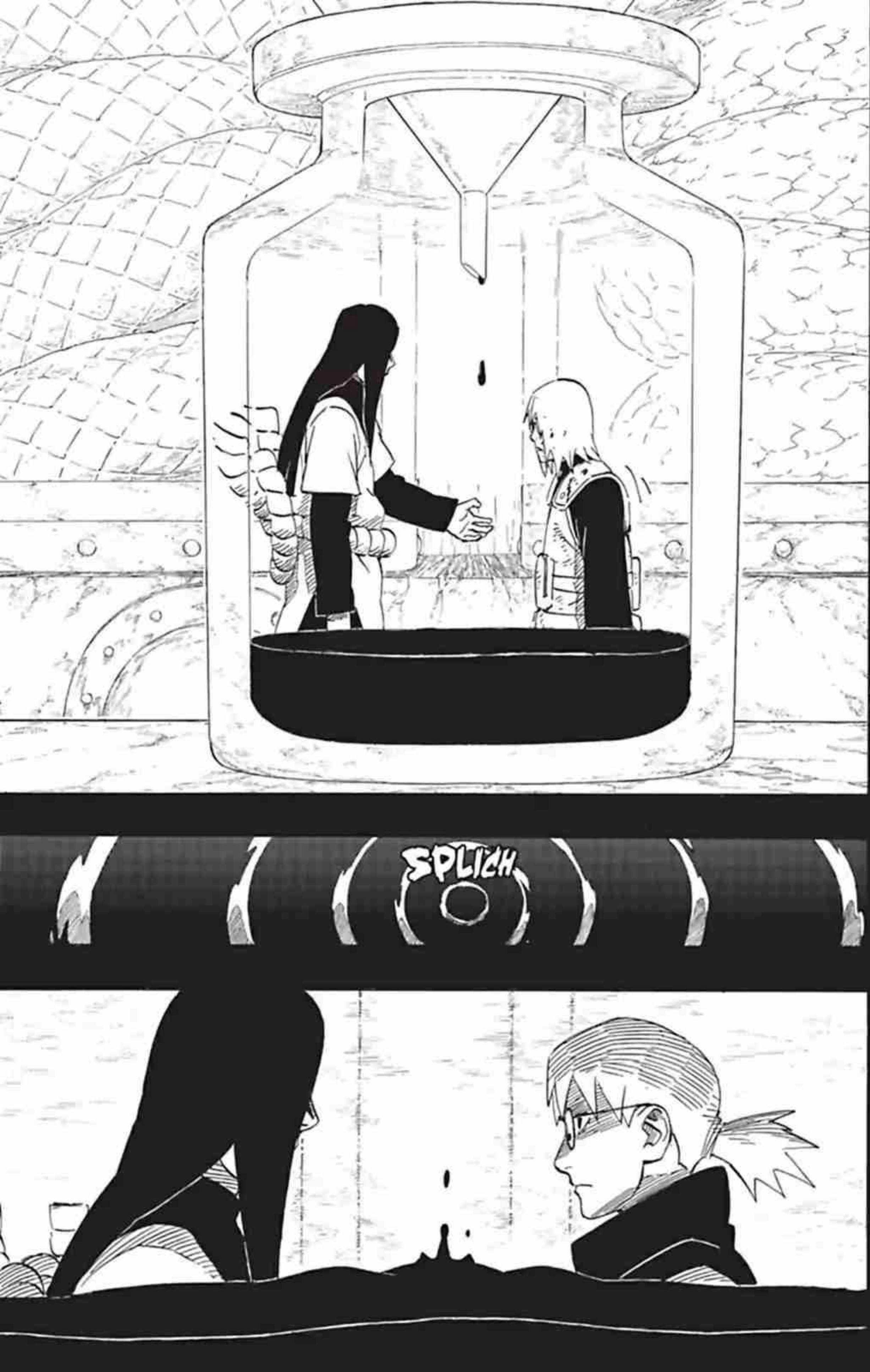
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE... COME... BE BY MY SIDE...

SHUP

I AM OROCHIMARU.

...

...YOU SHALL BE REBORN AS YAKUSHI KABUTO.


SPLICH

THE AKATSUKI.

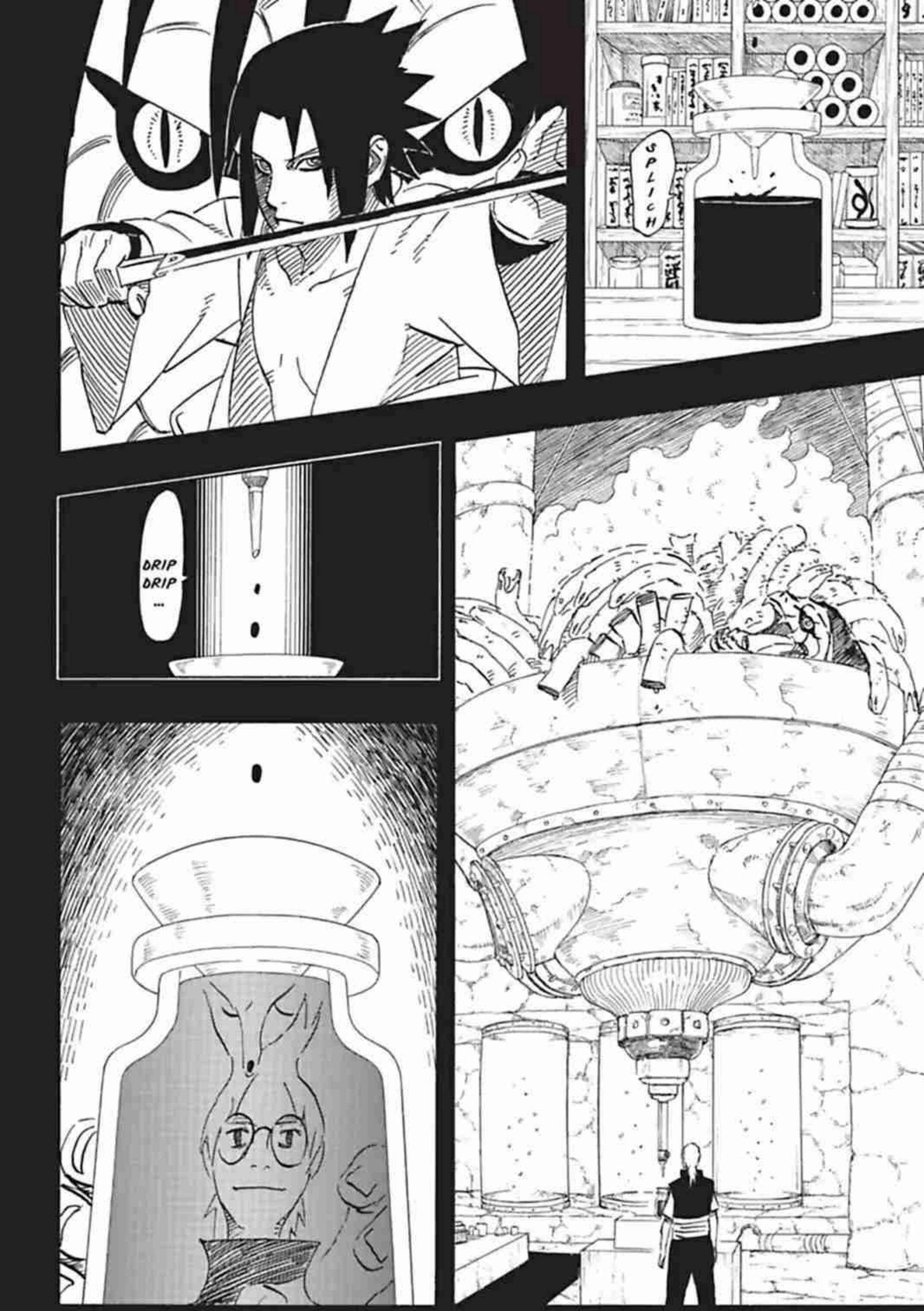
LEAVE IT TO ME.
SO... WHAT IS THIS GROUP?
THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION I WANT TO LOOK INTO NEXT...

UNDER-STOOD, LORD SASORI.

YOU CAN ERASE YOUR SOUND, YOUR SCENT, EVEN YOU YOURSELF...
YOU'RE ALMOST LIKE ONE OF MY PUPPETS.
YOU ARE USEFUL.

BRING ME OROCHIMARU'S HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION DATA AND ANY INTEL ON THE EDOTENSEI.

WSH


SPLITCH
DRIP
DRIP
...

STILL... NOT ENOUGH...

HUFF

HUFF

IT'S...

HEAVE

PLINK PLINK

HUFF

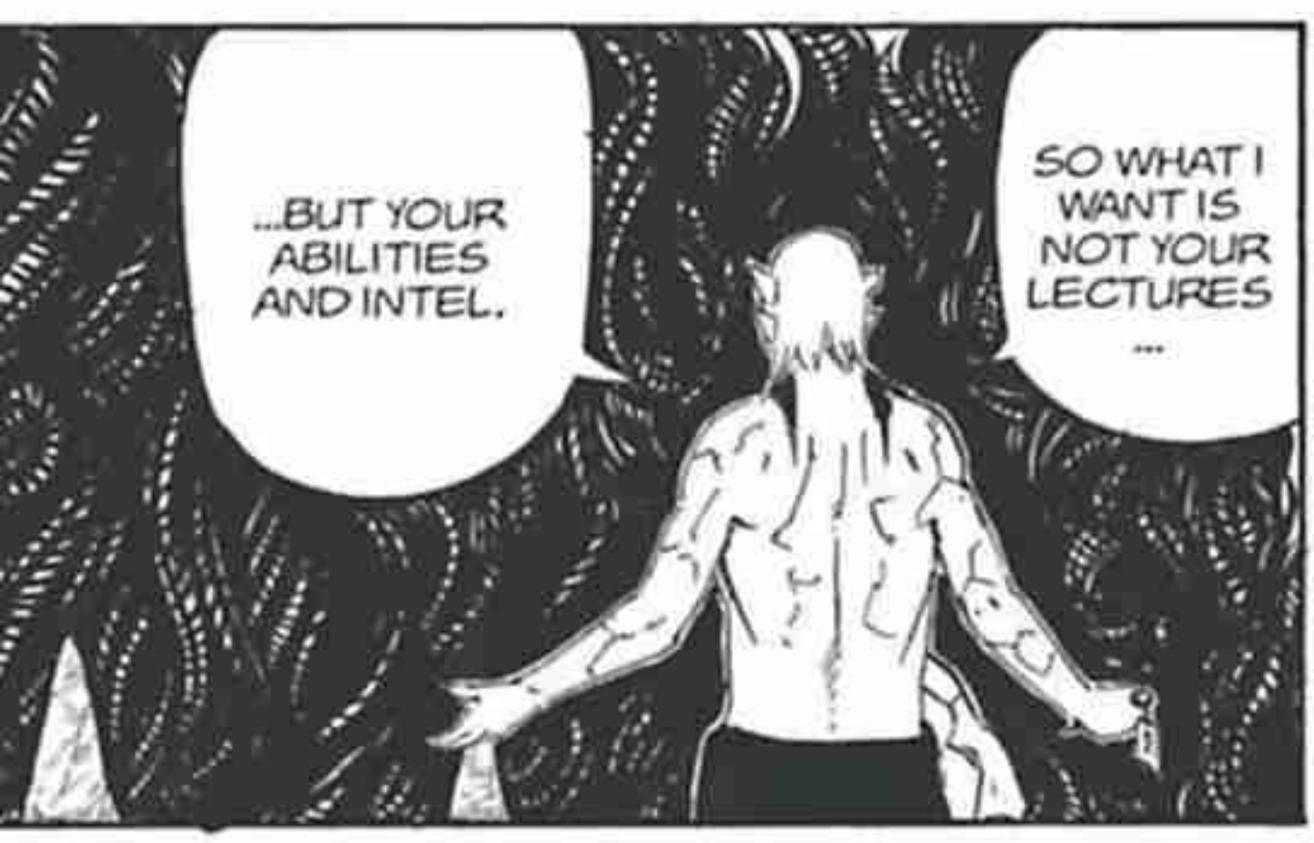
HEAVE

THIS IS STILL... NOT ME...!

HUFF

NARUTO

Number 585: I Am Me



SO IT'S MEANINGLESS FOR YOU TO CLAIM IT.
THE UCHIHA NAME INDICATES A BLOODLINE AND CLAN MEMBERSHIP.
FSH

TAK
...I AM STILL QUITE ENVIOUS OF IT.
NAH... EVEN THOUGH I'VE MOCKED THE UCHIHA NAME IN FRONT OF YOU...

YOU EXAGGERATE... LISTEN, I FAILED!

TWITCH

IT DOES HOLD MEANING FOR ME!

FW

FLIP

P

IS THE IZANAMI STILL NOT READY TO GO?
HE'S ABOUT TO COME AFTER US!

DON'T WORRY, I'M ON IT ALREADY...
...IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME.
...

I TOLD YOU NO!
WE'RE STUCK PLAYING CATCH-UP!
ARE YOU SURE IT WOULD BE BAD TO KILL HIM?
HE CONTROLS THE BATTLEFIELD RIGHT NOW... BE PATIENT.
SHUP
KOHNK

LORD OROCHIMARU SAID THUS:

ZWW...

NW

SAKON! DEMON TWIN JUTSU!!

JIROBO! EARTH STYLE!! TERRA SHIELD!!!
BAM
BAM

...ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS GATHER EVERY SINGLE THING...
...AND PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT EXISTS IN THIS WORLD!
BAKO
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU ARE...

KIDOMARU!

ZWOO...

PF

FFT

THUD

THUD

THESE STRANDS CAN'T BE CUT WITH A BLADE!

SPIRAL WEB!

FAB

AMA-TERASU!

KIMIMARO! MACABRE BONE PULSE!! BRACKEN DANCE!!!

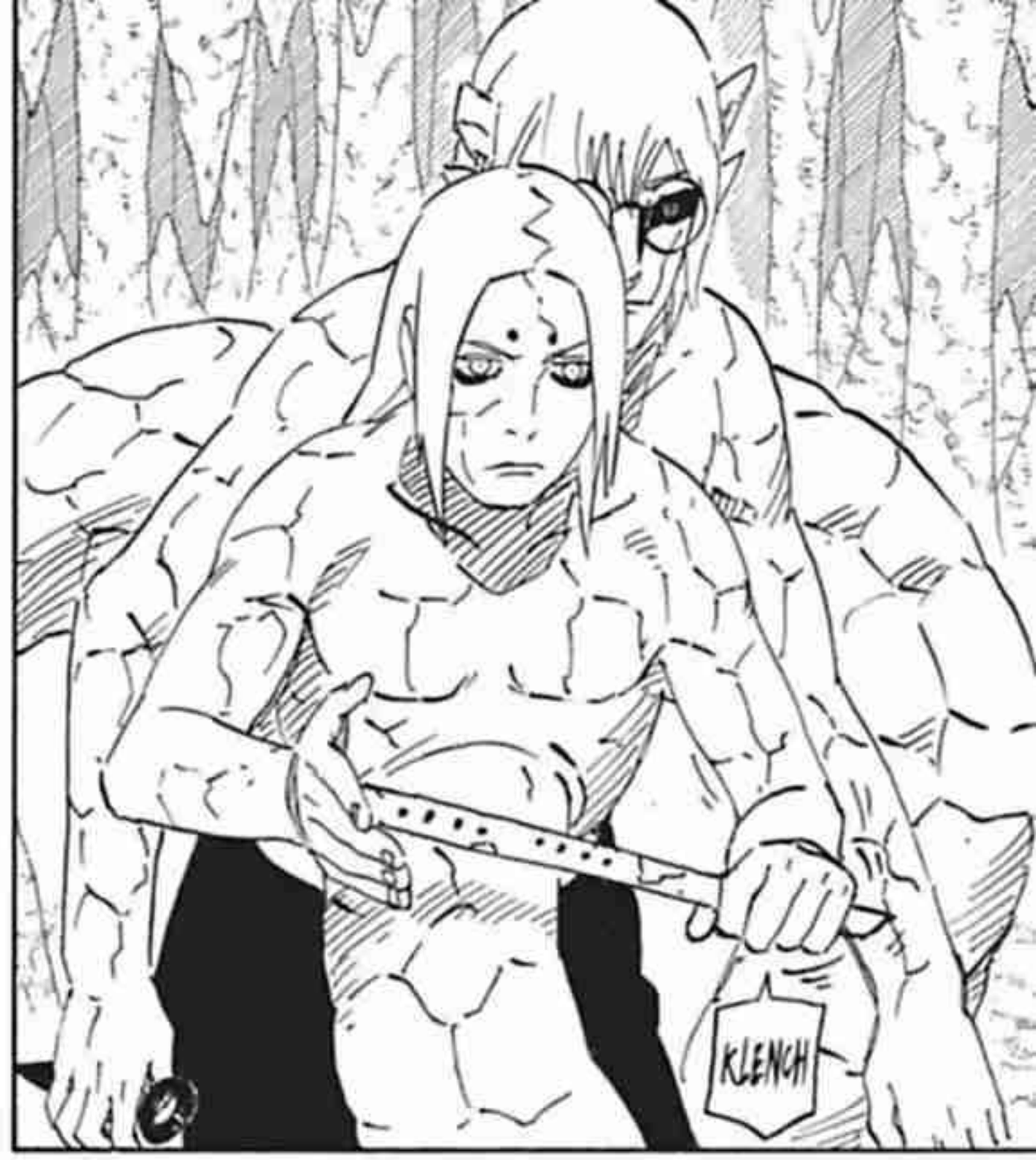
WSH WSH WSH

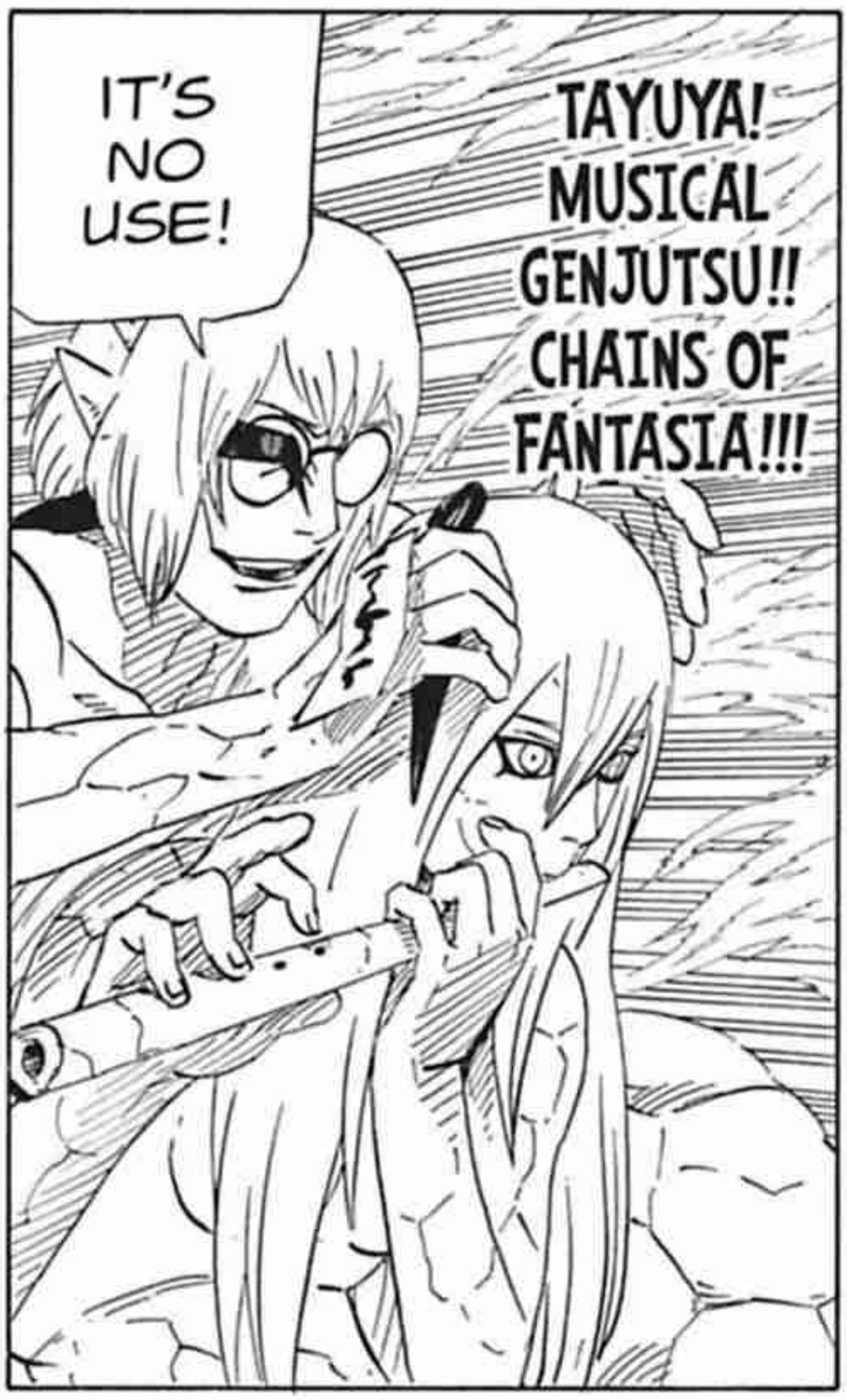
WSH WSH

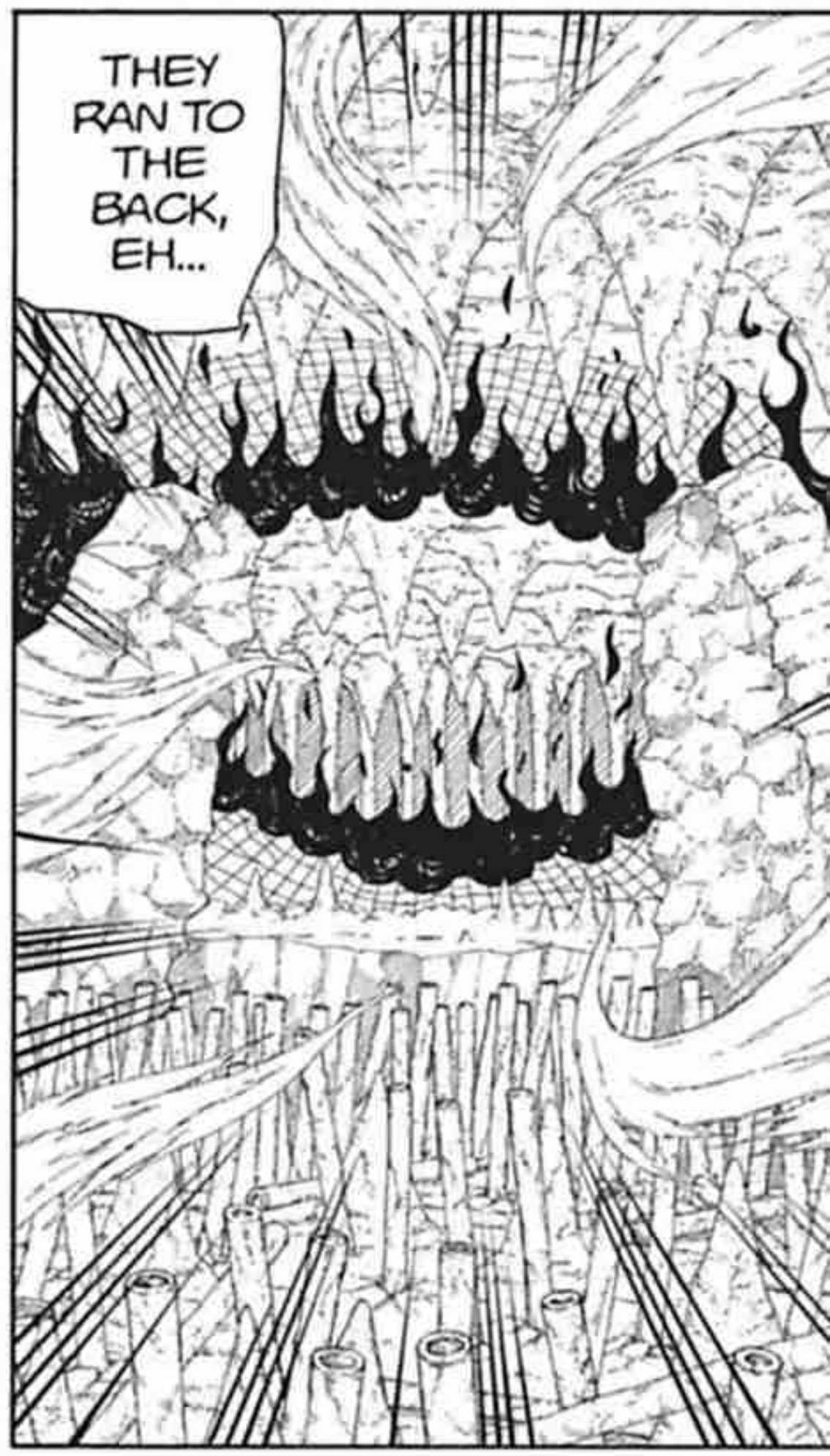
I'LL GET THE ONES BEHIND US! YOU TAKE THE FRONT, BROTHER!
HE'S LAID DOWN THE SPIDER SILK ALL THE WAY TO THE BACK!
YEAH.
CAN YOU STILL USE THE SUSANO'O?
TAK
VOOSH
INFERNO STYLE! FLAME CONTROL!!

PLINK

ZWOOO


KLENCH


IT'S NO USE!
TAYUYA! MUSICAL GENJUTSU!! CHAINS OF FANTASIA!!!


THEY RAN TO THE BACK, EH...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SASUKE?

SHUP

SHUP

G-G-

FLIZZ

G-G-

SHUP SHUP

ZWOO...

...NOW THAT I'VE IMMOBILIZED YOU, ALL THAT'S LEFT...

ZWOO

...

DIDN'T THINK SO.

YOUR PRECIOUS SUSANO'O CAN'T BLOCK SOUND, CAN IT...?

SWOO...

GEN-JUTSU.

SWOO...

QVV QVV

QVV QVV

QVV QVV

QVV QVV

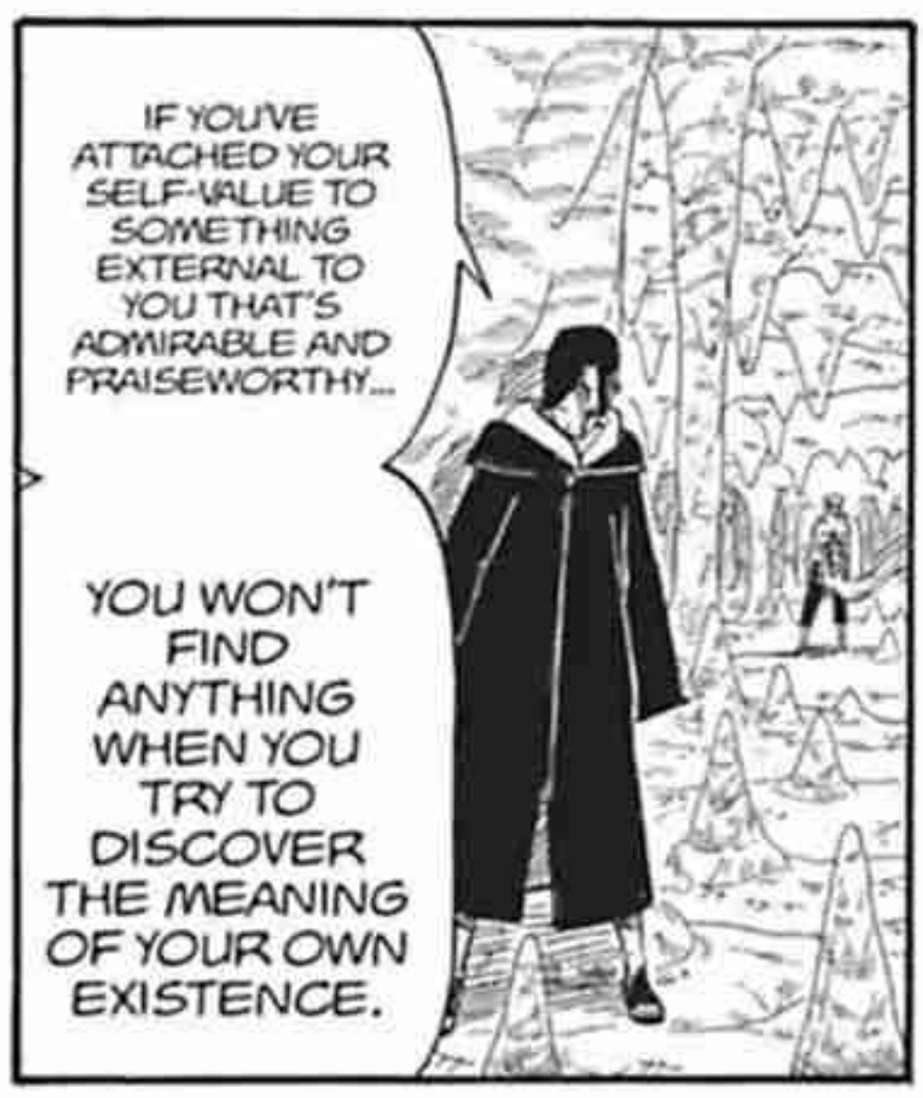
THIS CURRENT FORM OF MINE...?

WELL, SASUKE, DO YOU REMEMBER ?

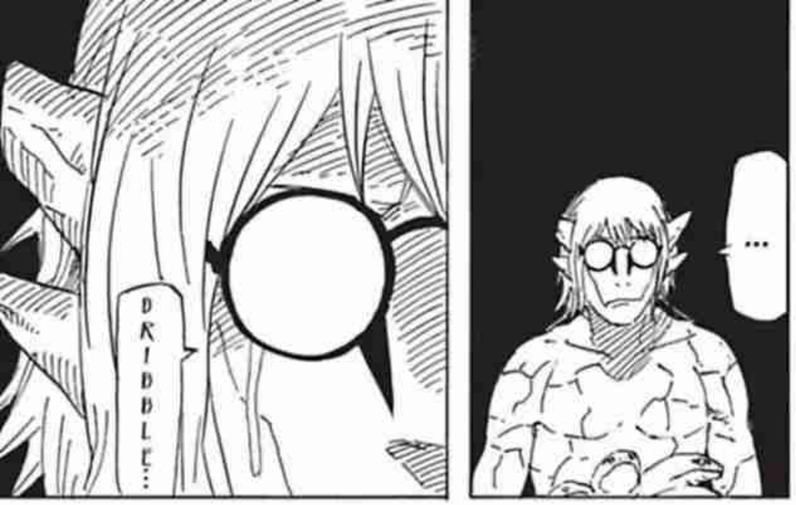
...IS TO TAKE YOU INTO ME USING LORD OROCHI-MARU!!

DON'T USE IT AS A CLOAK TO DECEIVE YOURSELF WITH, LIKE YOU'VE DONE!

SUCH BEHAVIOR IS MERELY A PROCESS TO HELP ONE MATURE!

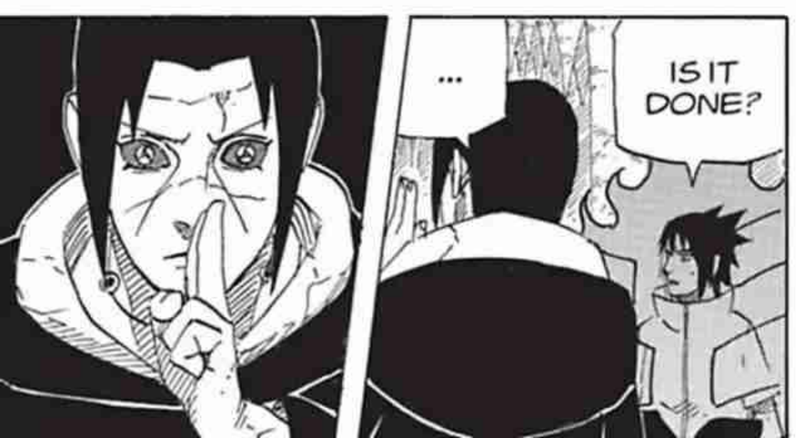


SASUKE... LOOK INTO MY EYES!


DRIBBLE...
...

YOU HAVE ALREADY... FAILED...
I SHALL NOW ENGAGE THE IZANAMI...

THMP
FSH...
SWSH...


...
IS IT DONE?

I JUST WANT TO BE WHO AND WHAT I AM!
YOU, A GENIUS WHO HAD EVERYTHING, WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND.
AND I SHAN'T LET ANYONE INTERFERE!!
SH

NARUTO

Number 586: The Izanami Activated

SKRK

!!

SKRK

BAP

WHAM

SSH

SWSH

BAM

WATER STYLE! GIANT WATERFALL!!

SLOOSH

FFFZ

FIRE STYLE! FIREBALL TECHNIQUE!!

ZZZ

FZZZZ

KLIK

!

SPLOOSH

UNGH!

WOOSH

SPOOK
SH
?!!
WHAM
WSH
!

WAP

WAP

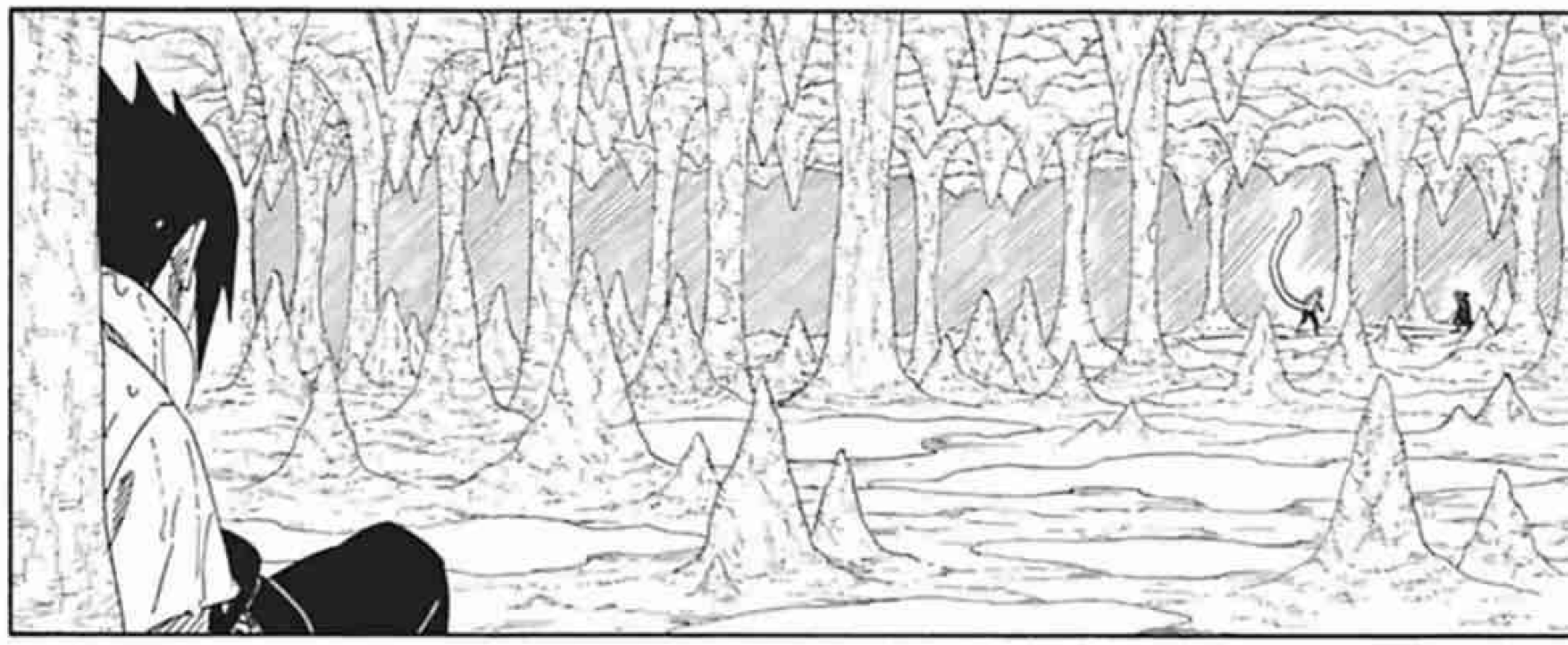
?!

WOOSH

WUMP
I TOLD YOU, WITH THIS BODY I CAN RECOVER FROM ANY WOUND YOU TRY TO INFLICT.

YOU'RE JUST REPEATING YOUR SAME OLD MOVES.
MAKES IT EASY FOR ME TO COUNTER.
SPRING

I TELL YOU AGAIN, YOU TWO HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING.
AND YOU KNOW SINCE I SHUT OFF MY VISION, GENJUTSU WON'T WORK ON ME.



SPLICH

DRIP

YOUR FATE IS ALREADY IN MY HANDS...
THANKS TO THE UCHIHA FORBIDDEN JUTSU THAT LETS ME.

SHALL WE PUT THAT BOAST TO THE TEST?!!
THE IZANAMI!

RRPK
KLANG

RRR RR

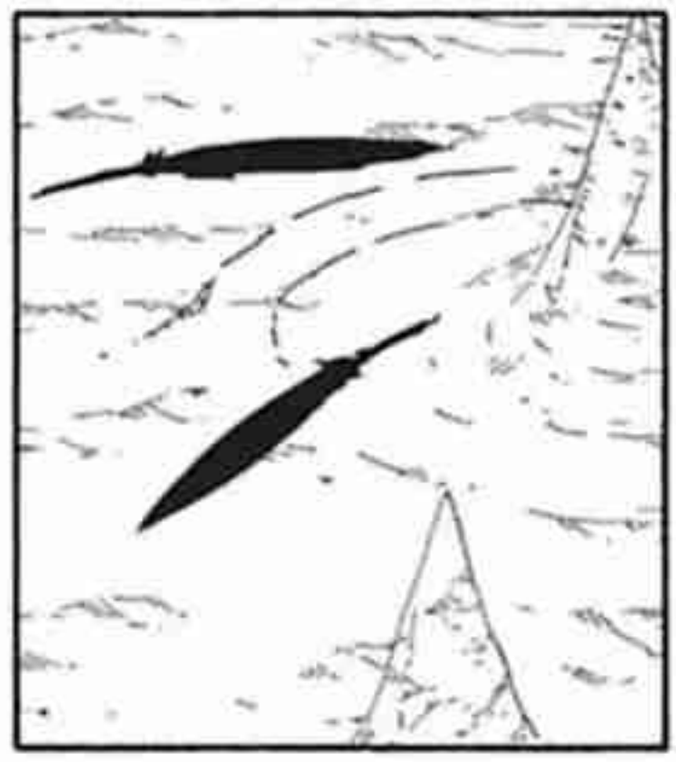
DO NOT LEAVE MY SIDE, SASUKE, NO MATTER WHAT!

FSSH

BUT YOU BORE ME. LET'S END THIS.

IT'S ALL JUST DÉJÀ VU TO ME.

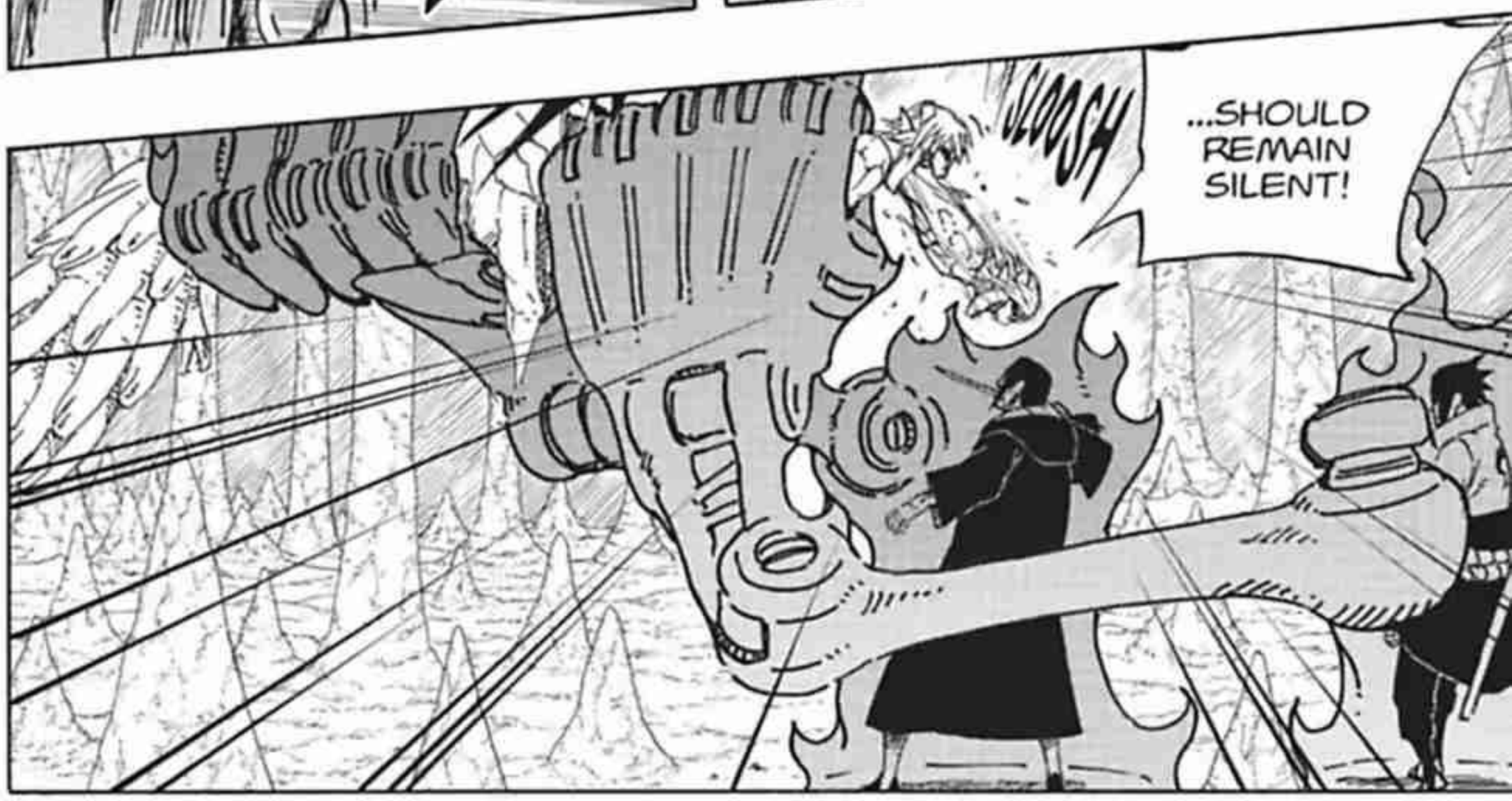
SLOSH

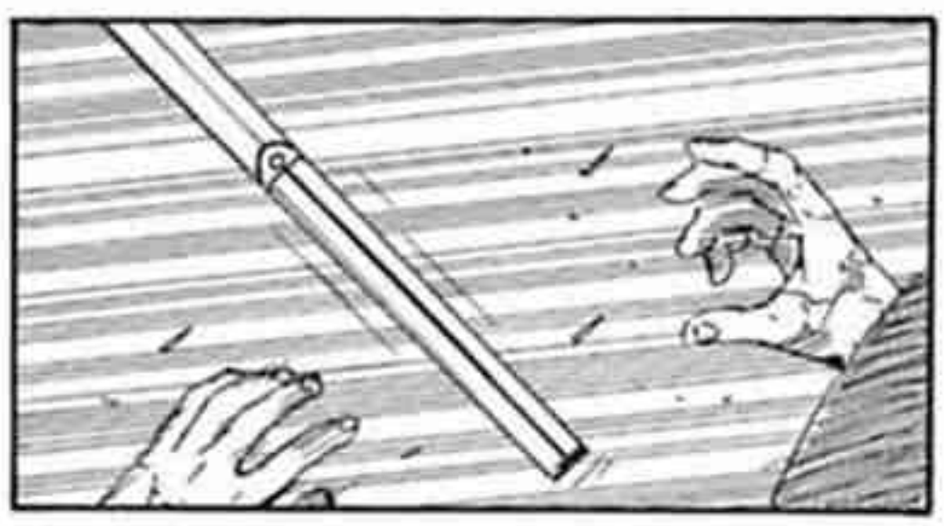


YOUR FATE MAY BE IN MY HANDS NOW...
...BUT ONLY YOU CAN TRULY DECIDE HOW THAT FATE SHAPES YOUR DESTINY.
REMEMBER WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU.
THINK HARD.
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU ON ABOUT NOW?
DON'T PLAY SEMANTICS WITH ME. I WILL HAVE EVERYTHING. I AM THE STRONGEST OF ALL!
SHUP
THAT IS FACT!
WHOOSH
IF YOU CAN FORGIVE YOURSELF, YOUR TRUE SELF...
ONLY THEN CAN YOU BE STRONG!!
WHAM

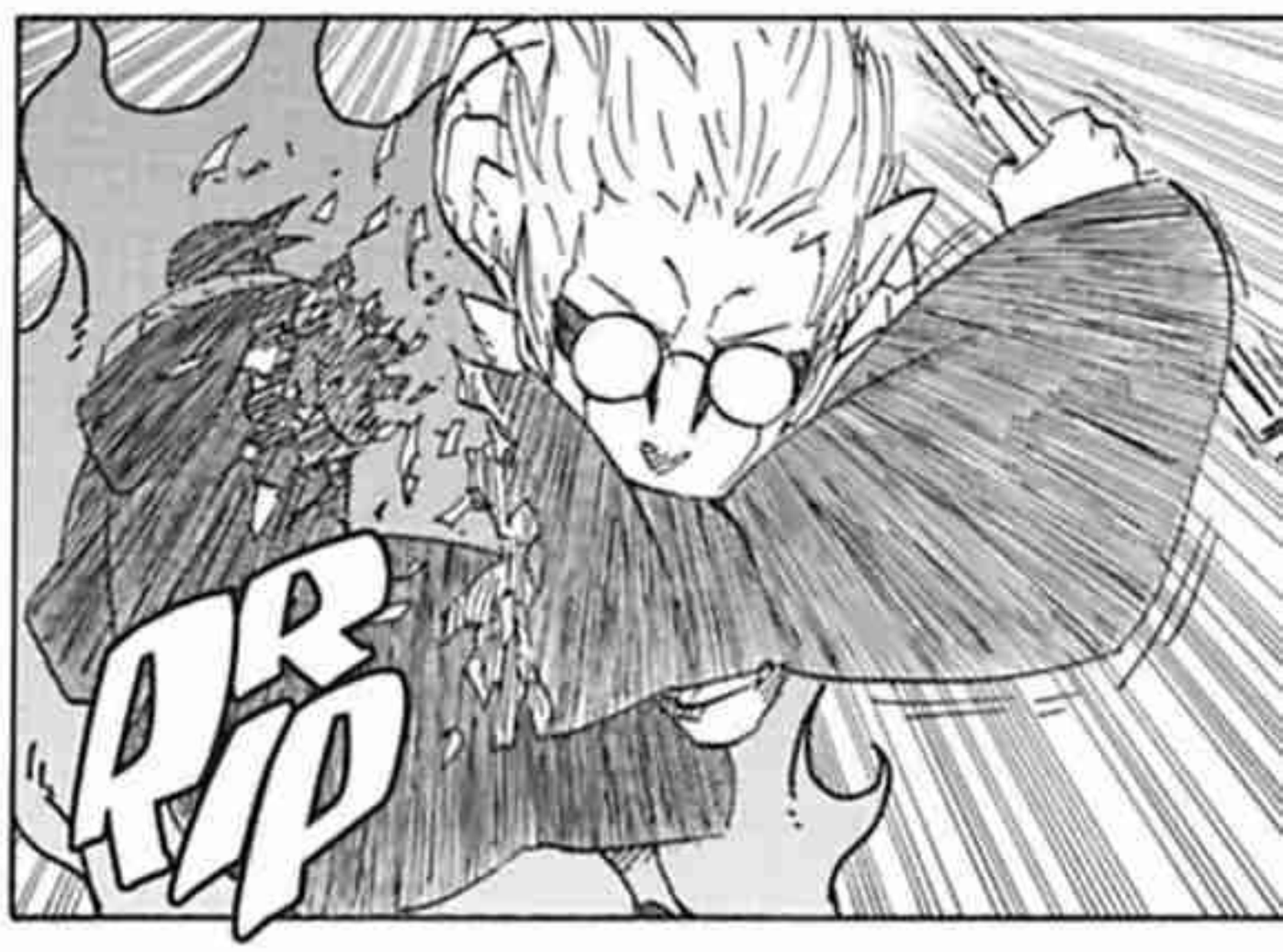
RR
RR

THE DEFEATED ...


SLOOSH
...SHOULD REMAIN SILENT!



SHP


RIP

SOO

SH

WAP

WHAT?! THAT HORN HAD ALREADY BEEN CUT OFF...

CLINK

BUT THIS IS CLEARLY...!!
HOW?! I HAVE NO SIGHT... I SHOULD BE INVULNERABLE TO GENJUTSU!

SIZZ
!

SPLICH

DRIP

GLUBGLUBGLUB
THUD THUD THUD THU

IMPOS-SIBLE!!
TAK
BZ
SPLASH

I HAVE YOU IN MY OCULAR JUTSU...

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!

KLA

IT'S THE IZANAMI!

TAK
TMP

ZWI
TAK

SUDO
SH

...?!!

WA
WA
!

WAK

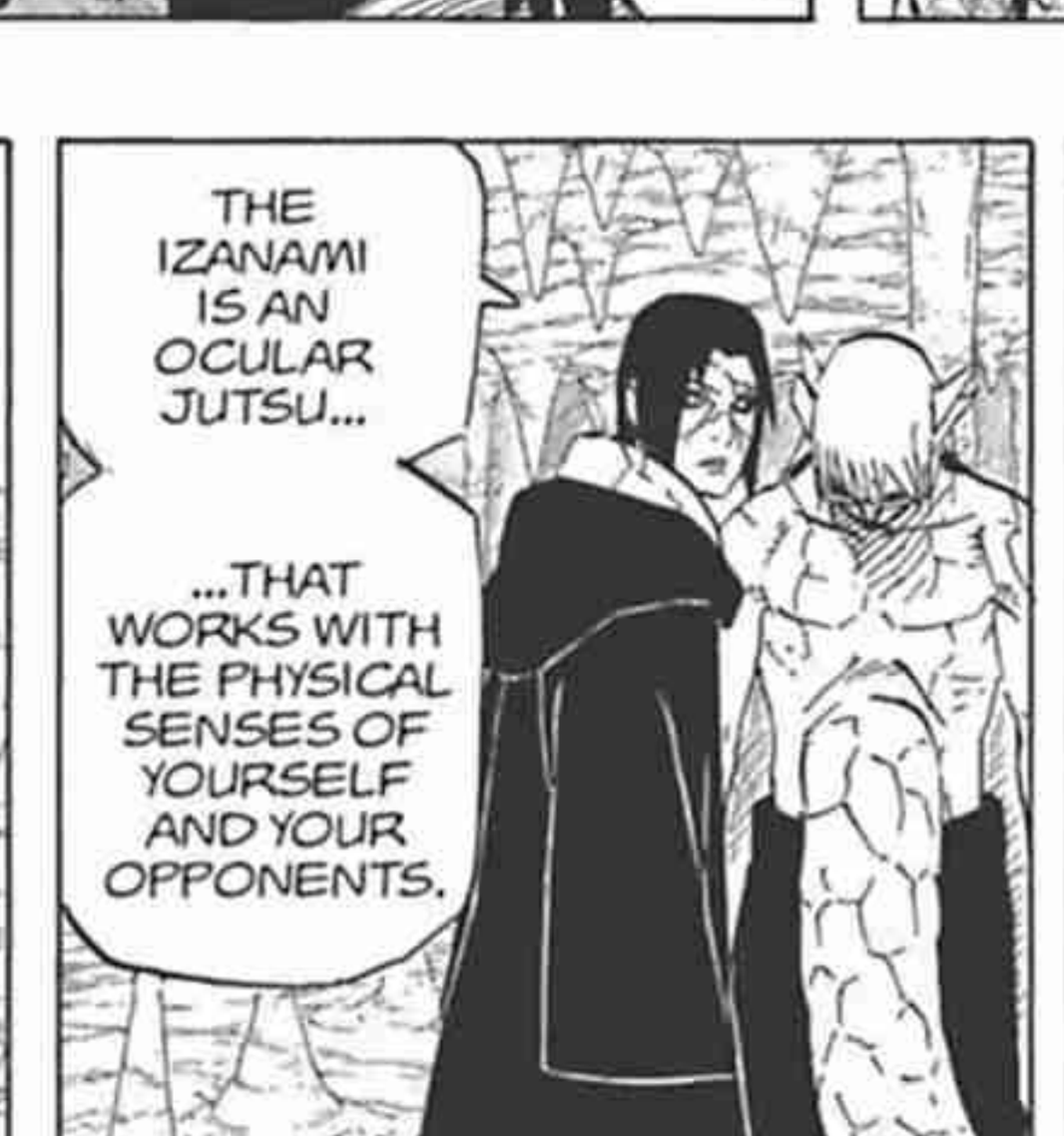
WAP

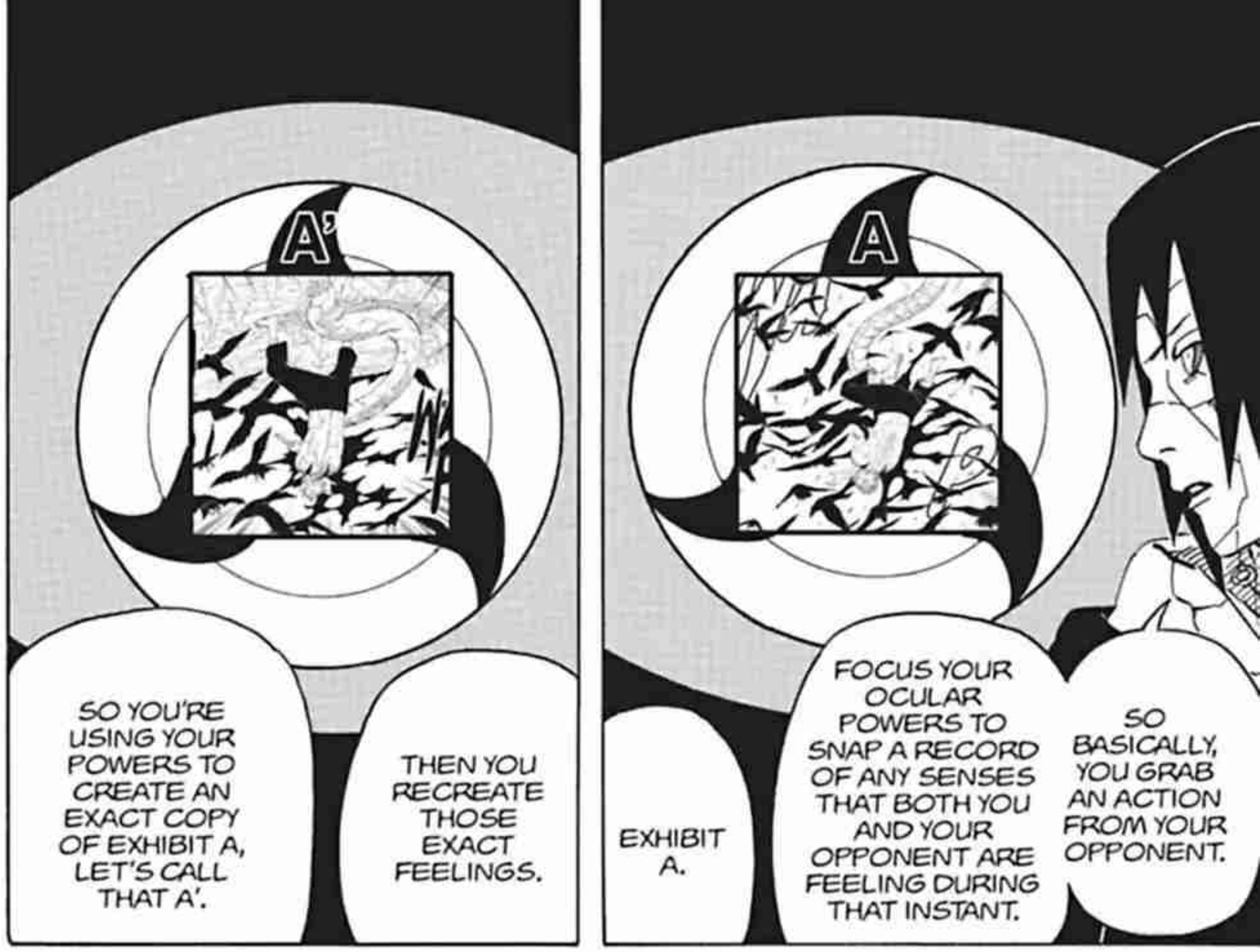
A JUTSU THAT DECIDES ONE'S FATE...

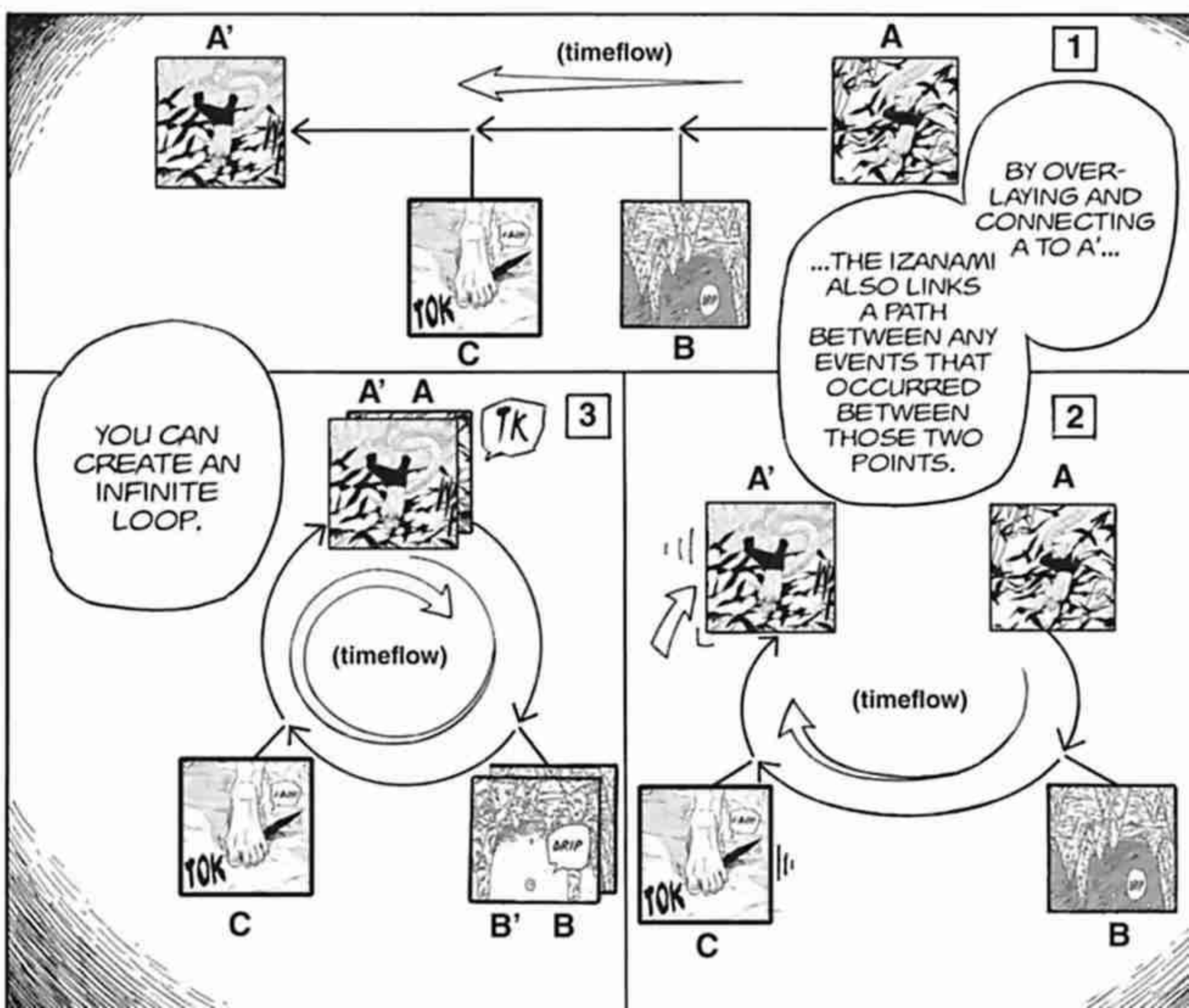
...THAT IS THE IZANAMI!

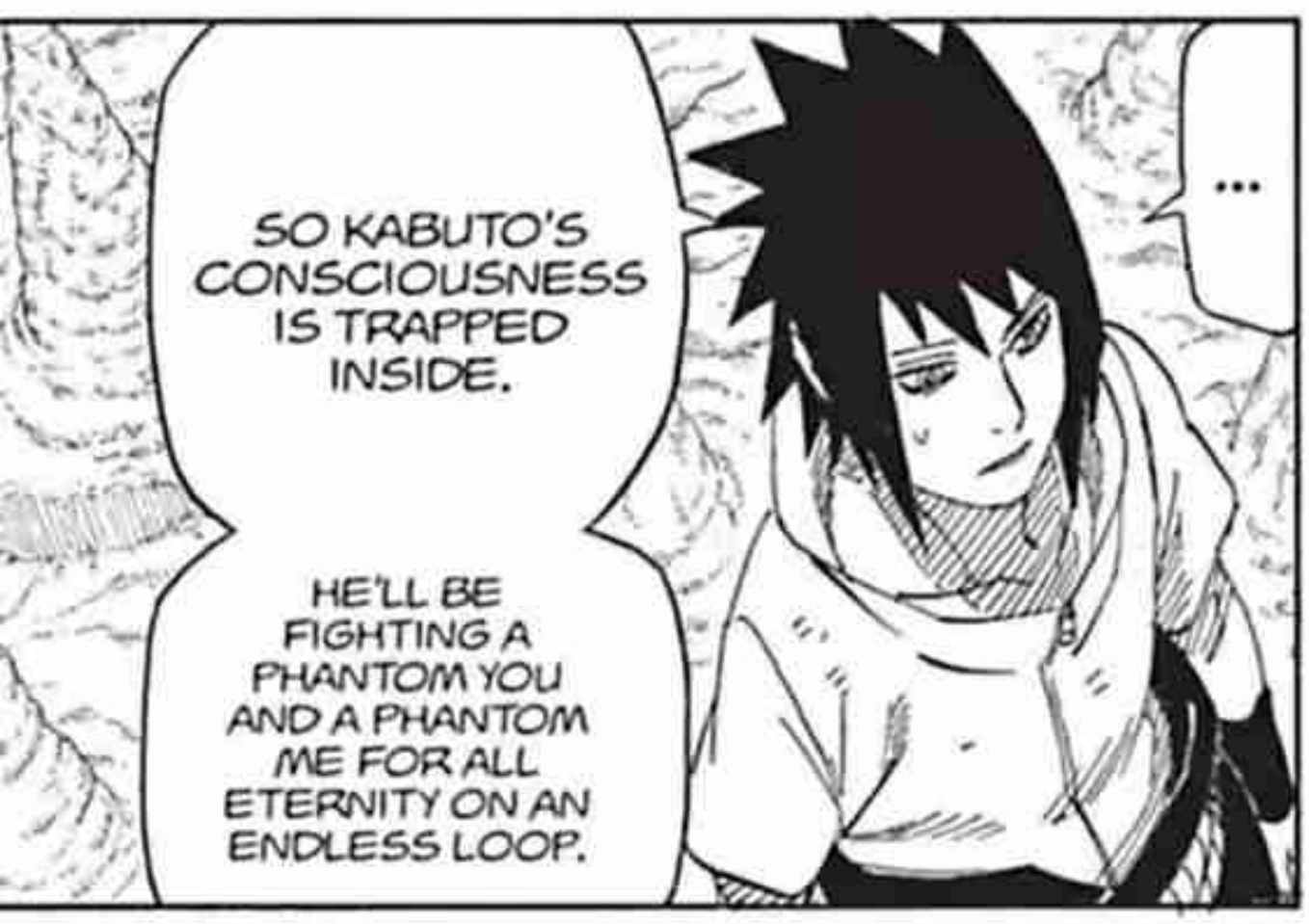
NARUTO

Number 587: Nine O'clock

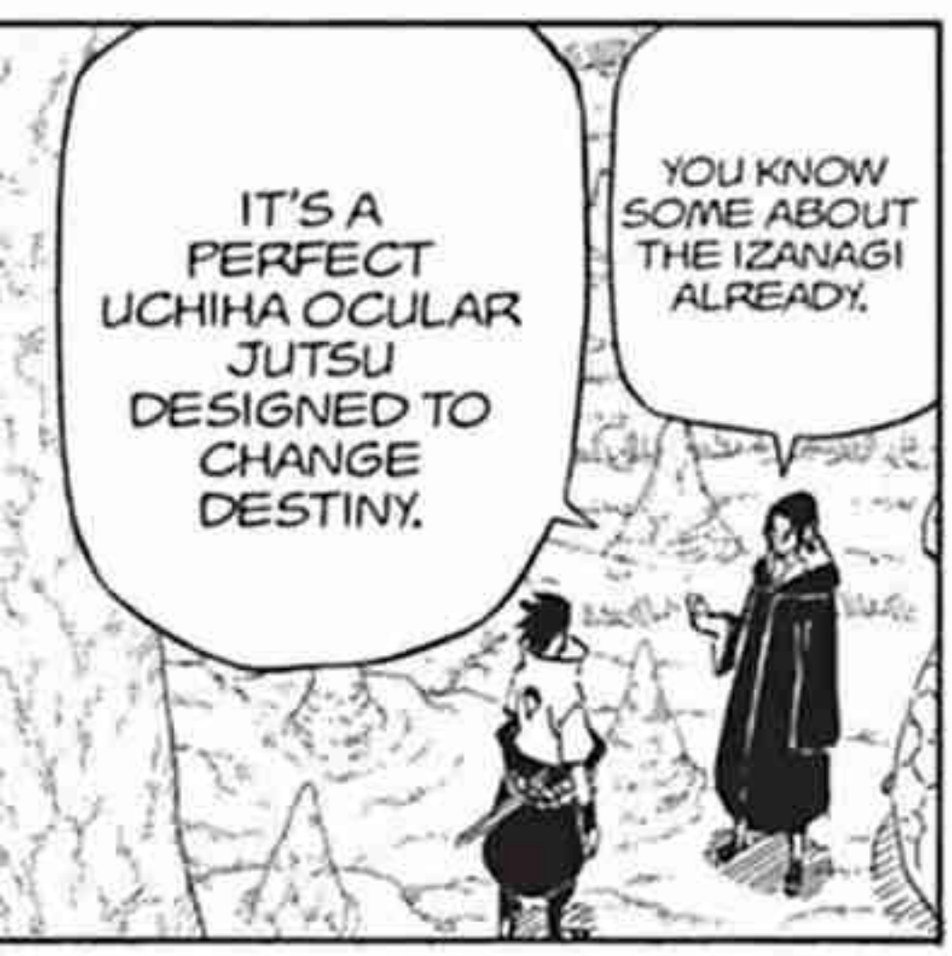



A'
SO YOU'RE USING YOUR POWERS TO CREATE AN EXACT COPY OF EXHIBIT A, LET'S CALL THAT A'.
THEN YOU RECREATE THOSE EXACT FEELINGS.
A
EXHIBIT A.
FOCUS YOUR OCULAR POWERS TO SNAP A RECORD OF ANY SENSES THAT BOTH YOU AND YOUR OPPONENT ARE FEELING DURING THAT INSTANT.
SO BASICALLY, YOU GRAB AN ACTION FROM YOUR OPPONENT.


A'
(timeflow)
A
1
BY OVER-LAYING AND CONNECTING A TO A'...
...THE IZANAMI ALSO LINKS A PATH BETWEEN ANY EVENTS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN THOSE TWO POINTS.
TOK
C
B
YOU CAN CREATE AN INFINITE LOOP.
A' A
TK
3
(timeflow)
TOK
C
B' B
2
A'
A
(timeflow)
TOK
C
B


SO KABUTO'S CONSCIOUSNESS IS TRAPPED INSIDE.
HE'LL BE FIGHTING A PHANTOM YOU AND A PHANTOM ME FOR ALL ETERNITY ON AN ENDLESS LOOP.
...

ALL IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE'S OWN SIGHT, OF COURSE.
JUST LIKE WITH THE IZANAGI.


IT'S A PERFECT UCHIHA OCULAR JUTSU DESIGNED TO CHANGE DESTINY.
YOU KNOW SOME ABOUT THE IZANAGI ALREADY.

...!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOT QUITE... THERE IS AN ESCAPE ROUTE BUILT INTO THE JUTSU. YOU COULD FEASIBLY DISENGAGE FROM THE LOOP.
THE IZANAMI WAS DEVELOPED TO ADMONISH AND SALVAGE AN IZANAGI USER.

ULTIMATELY, YOU CAN PICK AND CHOOSE THE MOST DESIRABLE END RESULT.
IF SOMETHING DOES NOT GO THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO, YOU CAN JUST ERASE THAT OUTCOME AND START ALL OVER.
WSSSH
FSH

IT WAS MOST HANDY IN HUGE BATTLES THAT THE UCHIHA CLAN COULD NOT AFFORD TO LOSE.

THE IZANAGI IS OBVIOUSLY AN INVALUABLE JUTSU.

BUT WHEN THERE WERE TWO OR MORE, THERE COULD BE ENDLESS REWORKINGS OF ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE IZANAGI USER, IT WAS NO PROBLEM.

MOST WHO USED IT COULDN'T HANDLE IT AND ABUSED THE POWER THEY HELD.

BUT THERE'S A BIGGER RISK THAN JUST VISION LOSS TO A JUTSU THAT ALLOWS THE CASTER TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN ENDING.

NORMAL VISION-BASED GEN-JUTSU IS POWERLESS AGAINST OCULAR POWERS.

THAT'S WHAT THE IZANAMI WAS DESIGNED TO STOP.

Izanami

Izanagi

If one erases branch X and proceeds to branch O, one ends up going around in circles.

X

O

X

X

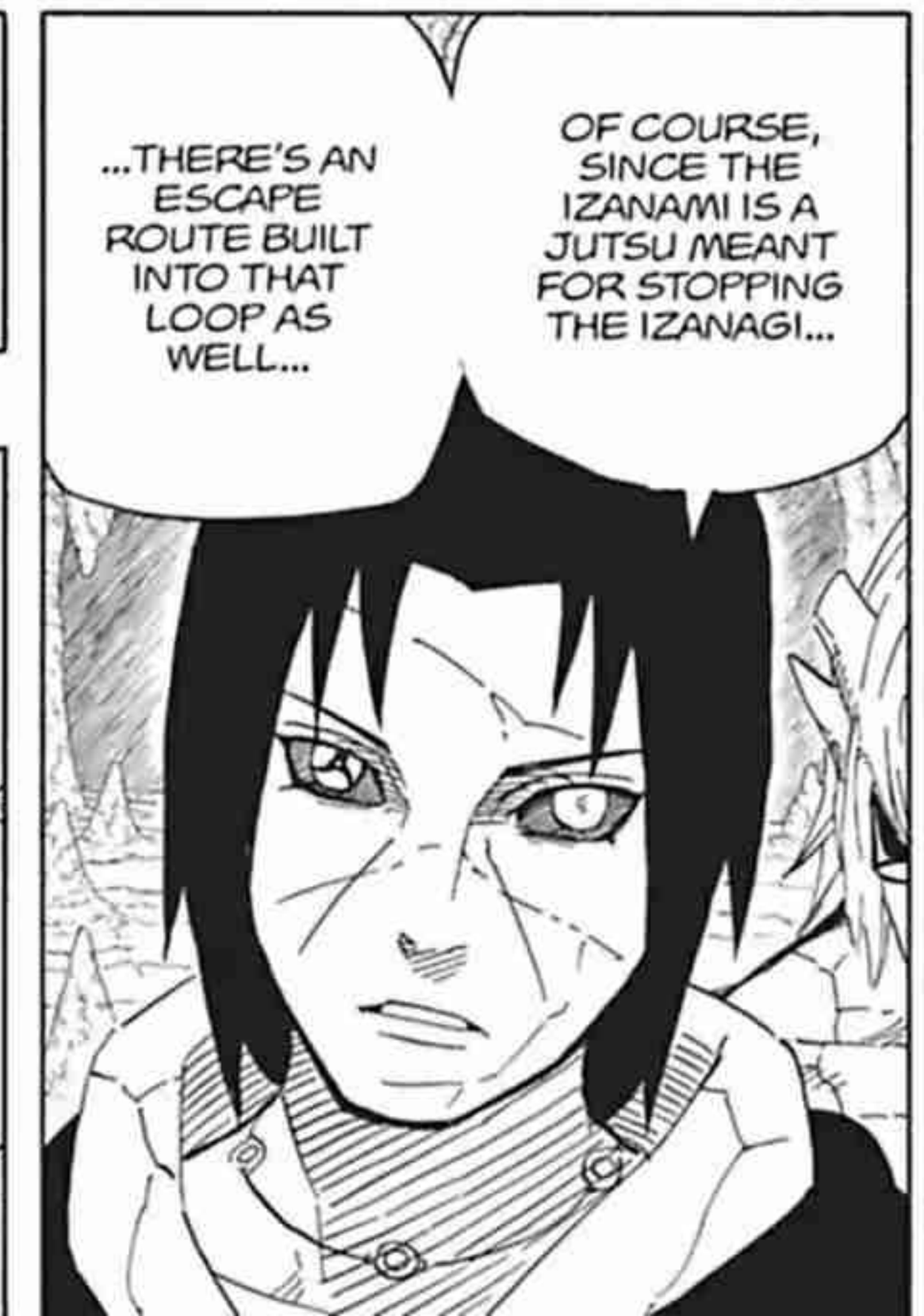
O

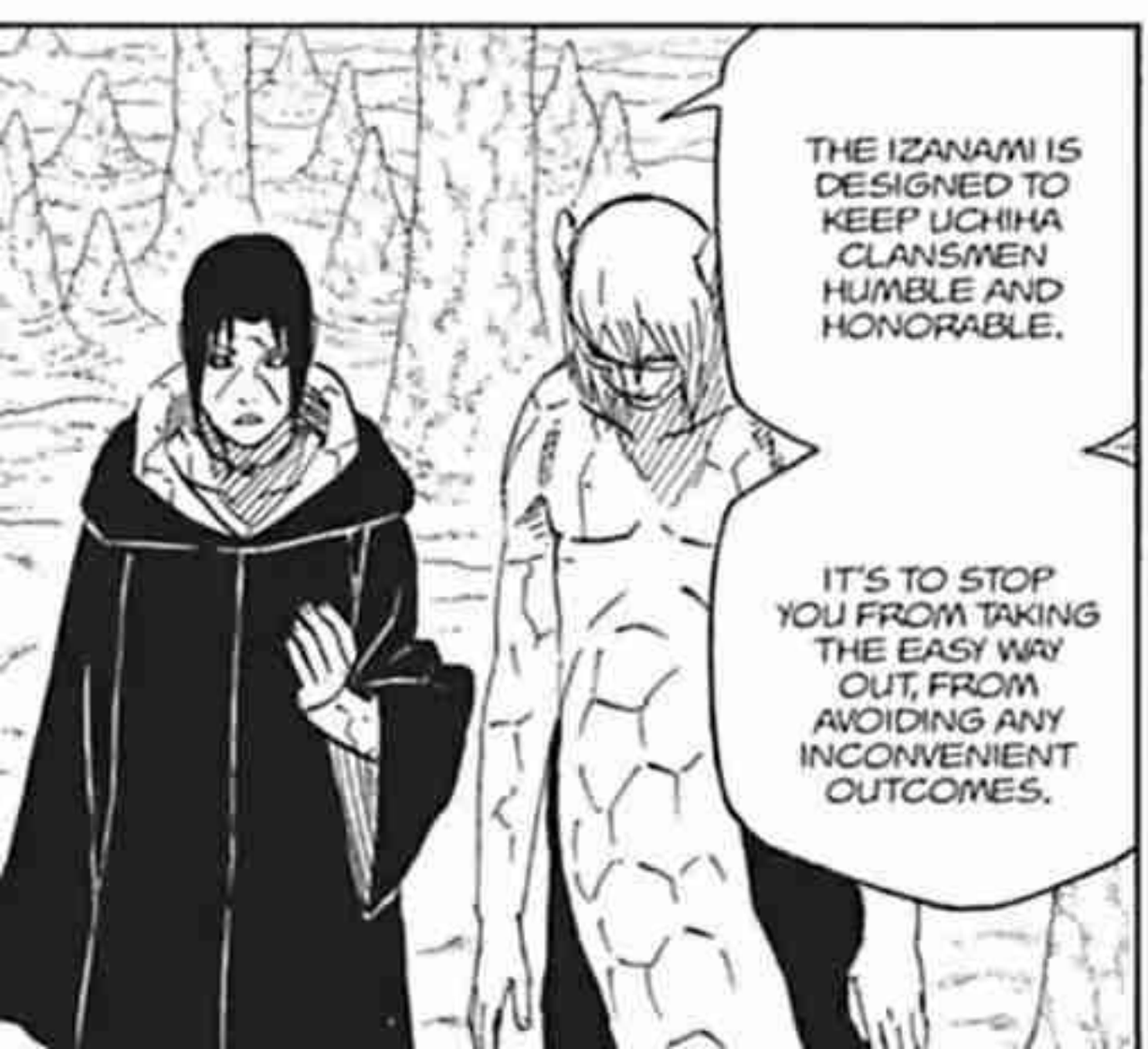
Paths that fork into two

One can erase branch X and select a different branch, O, instead.

THE IZANAMI IS SET UP TO TAKE SOMEONE WHO IS USING THE IZANAGI TO CHANGE AN OUTCOME TO BENEFIT ONESELF...

...AND CAUSE THEM TO ENDLESSLY CIRCLE AROUND IN A LOOP.





THAT'S WHY THE IZANAMI IS A FORBIDDEN JUTSU.

BUT A JUTSU THAT HAS AN ESCAPE IS TOO DANGEROUS TO USE IN ACTUAL COMBAT.

THIS JUTSU GUIDES YOU TOWARD ACCEPTING YOUR FATE... INSTEAD OF RELYING ON JUTSU TO CHANGE IT.

ONCE ONE ACCEPTS THE ORIGINAL OUTCOME AND STOPS TRYING TO RUN FROM IT, THE LOOP WILL STOP.

...

IF KABUTO STOPS TRYING TO TRANSFORM...

...HE CAN STOP THE LOOP.

I THOUGHT I WAS UNSTOPPABLE.

I THOUGHT I COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING.

HE COULD STILL ESCAPE.

WHY BOTHER CASTING THIS ON KABUTO?

HE REMINDS ME OF THE OLD ME.

KABUTO IS SO DELUDED THAT HE THINKS ALL THESE POWERS ARE HIS AND HIS ALONE.

I STOPPED LISTENING TO ANYONE ELSE. I STOPPED TRUSTING ANYONE.

BUT HE'S NOT COMPLETELY TO BLAME FOR HIS NOT REALIZING THAT.

WHAT HE IS DOING IS CERTAINLY WRONG.

HE CAN'T FORGIVE HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE'S DONE BECAUSE HE CAN'T SEE HIMSELF FOR WHO AND WHAT HE TRULY IS.

I UNDERSTAND HIM TOO WELL. THE SHINOBI WORLD HAS MADE US BOTH VICTIMS OF OUR OWN EGOS.

...

I LOST MY CHANCE. BUT HE CAN STILL FORGIVE HIMSELF BEFORE HE DIES.

I TRIED TO CONTROL YOU WITH THE OCULAR JUTSU KOTO'AMATSUKAMI.
?!

SASUKE.
HE IS NOT LIKE YOU! YOU WERE PERFECT!
BIG BROTHER, WHY WOULD YOU EVER FEEL YOU NEEDED TO HELP HIM DO THAT?!

I DIDN'T TRUST YOUR STRENGTH.
I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED MY PROTECTION.
I TREATED YOU LIKE A CHILD.

THEY CAN ONLY SUCCEED WHEN ACTUALLY WORKING TOGETHER.
SOMETIMES TWO WHO SEEM OPPOSITES ARE ACTUALLY TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.
IT MAY BE THAT A PERFECT BEING DOES NOT EXIST AT ALL IN THE WORLD.

...

...

FIND IN YOURSELF WHAT I WAS UNABLE TO FIND IN ME.

LOOK AT ME.

FIRST...

DO NOT SAY I WAS PERFECT.

LIKE...

...THE IZANAGI AND IZANAMI.

THIS...
KLOP

I AM PERFECT !!
CLINK
NO WAY!!

WAP

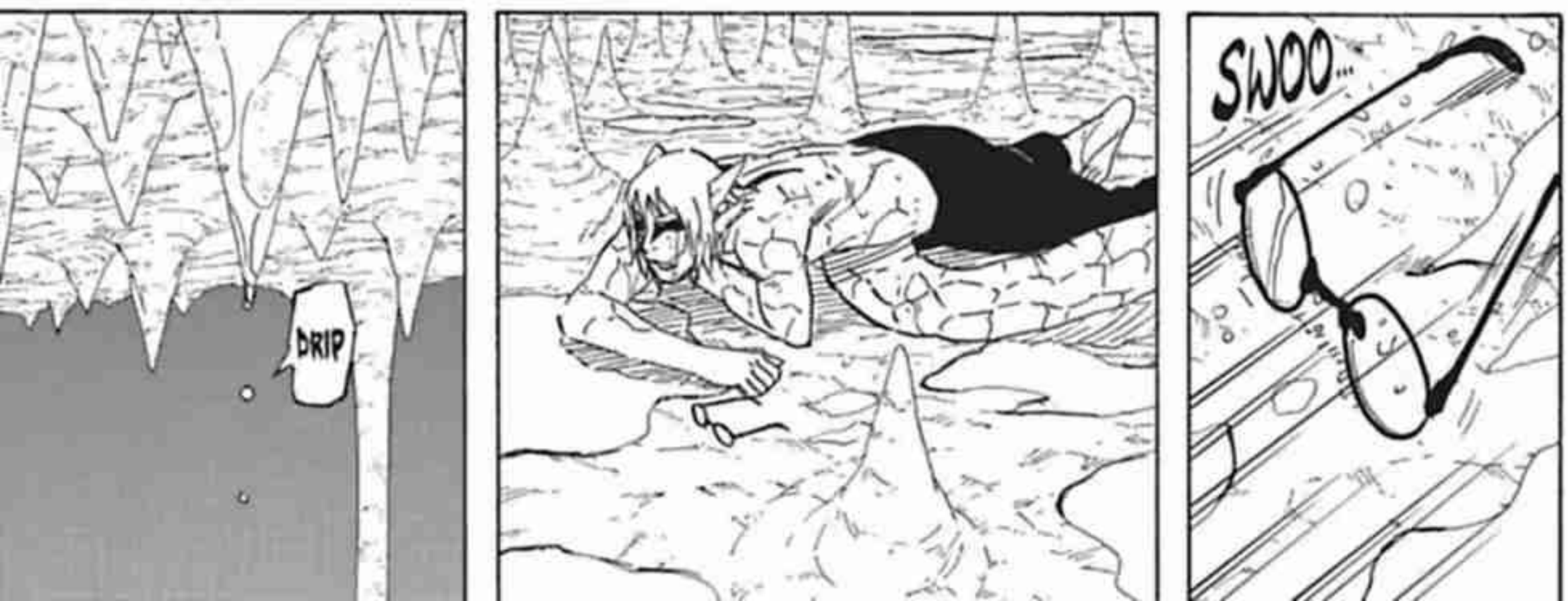
HOW LONG WILL YOU IMITATE OROCHIMARU?
IF YOU WANT TO EXIT THIS LOOP, YOU MUST REEXAMINE YOUR MISTAKES.

I KNOW HE'S COMING WITH A FIRE STYLE JUTSU HERE!
KLAK
SHUT UP!!

...IS NOT ME!!

WATER STYLE! WATER DRA--

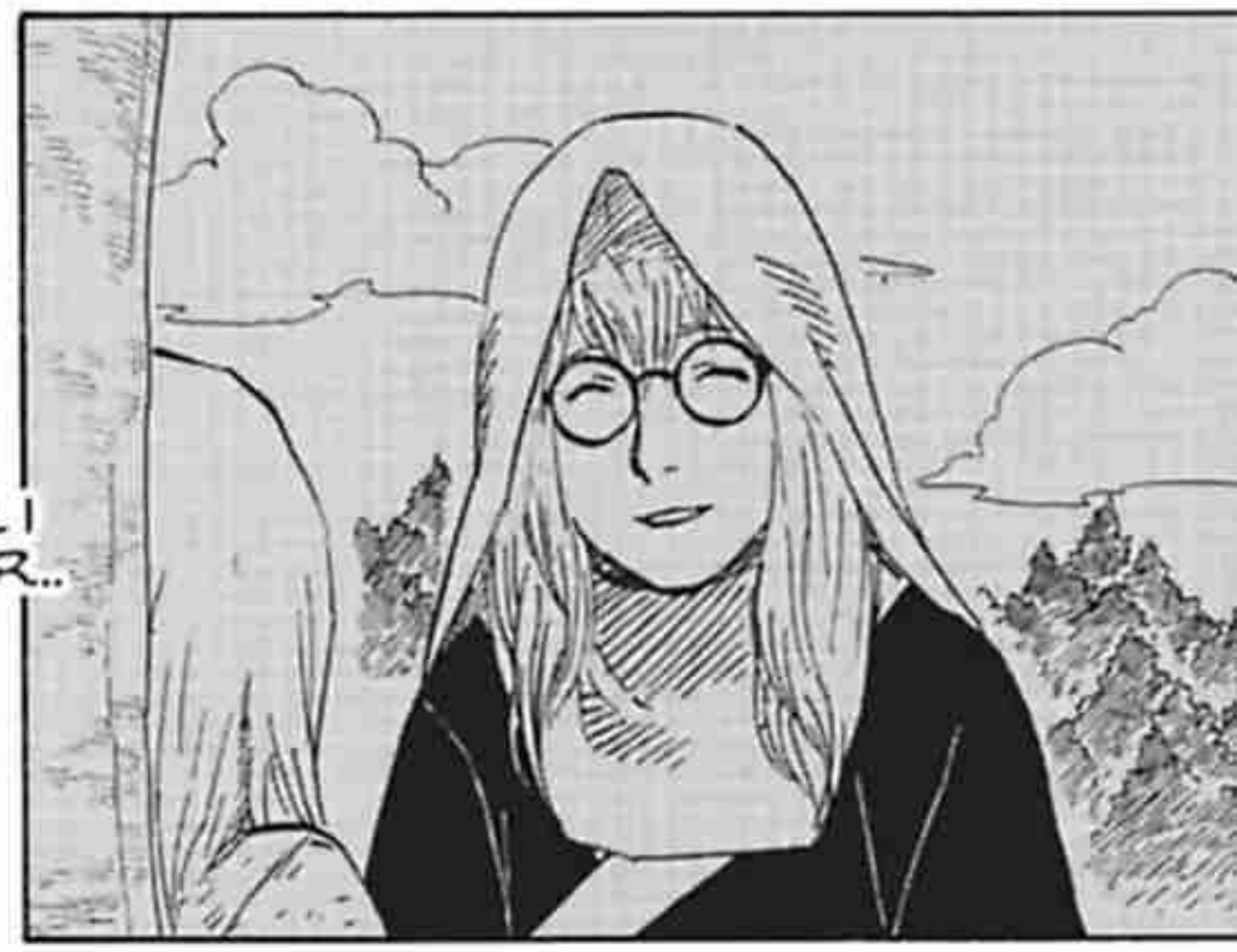
WATER STYLE! WATER DRAGON MISSILE!!



WHERE HAVE I EVER MADE A MISTAKE ?!
HOW DID I GET THIS WRONG ?!

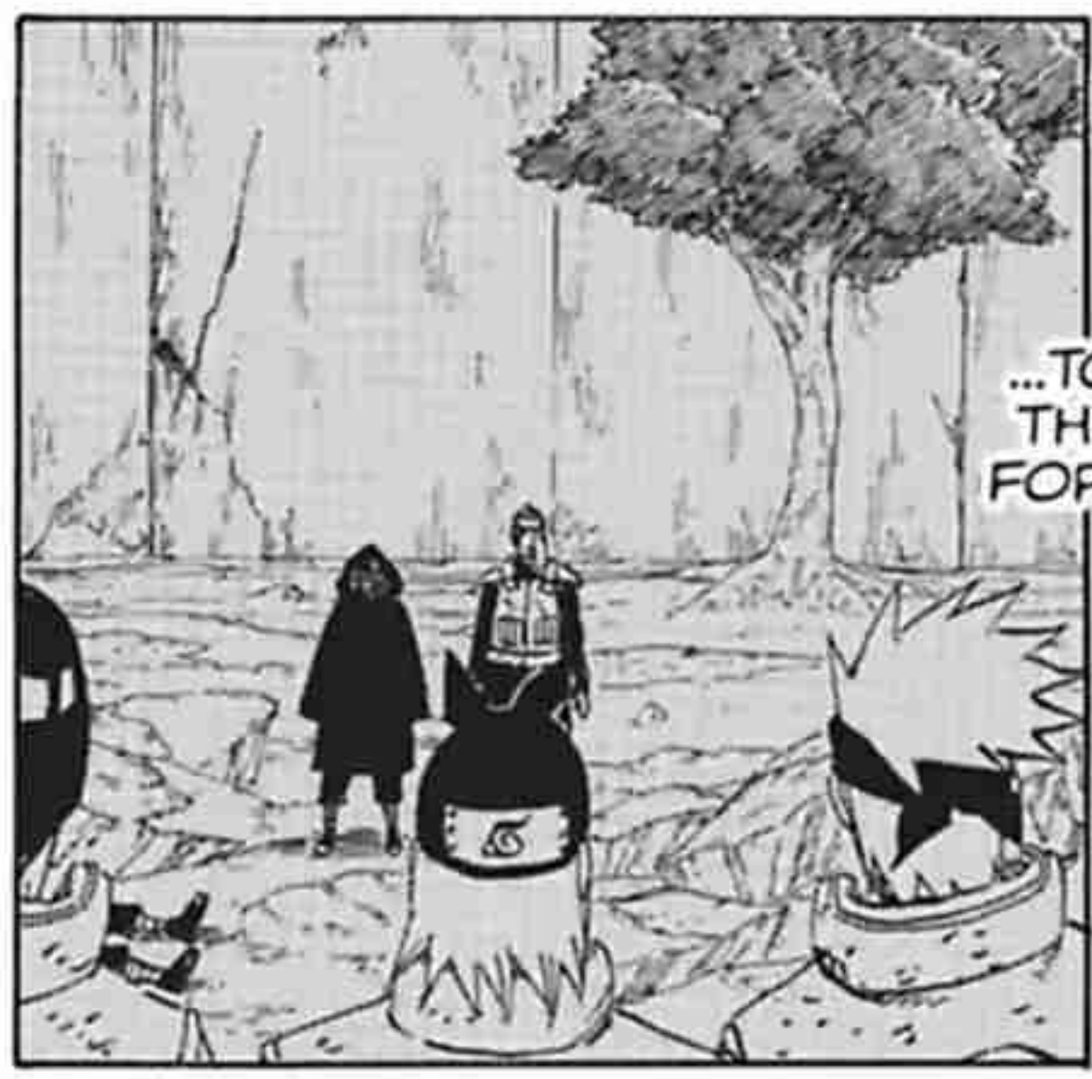
SPLICH
!!

ALL I EVER...



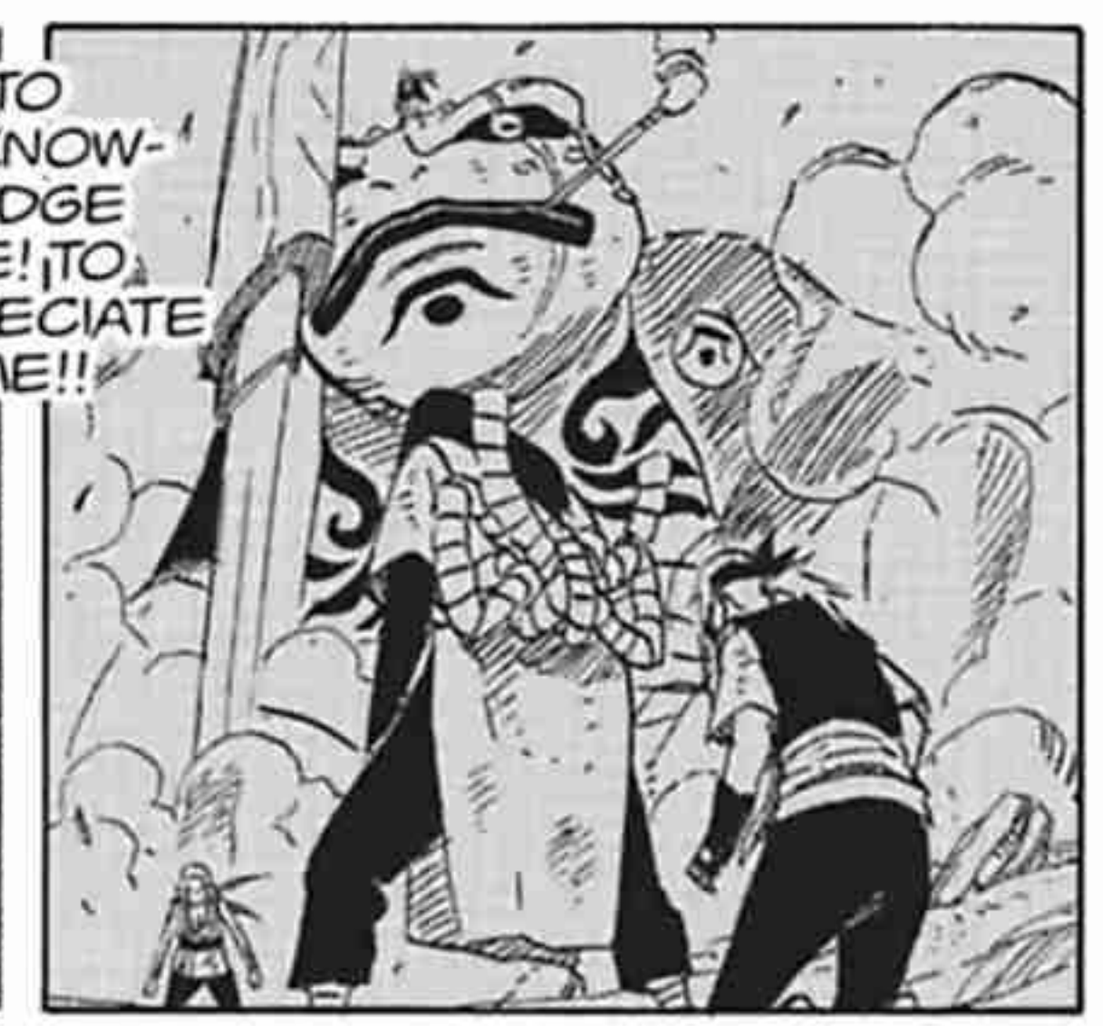
...WAS SOMEONE...

...WANTED...



WOO SH
...TO BE THERE FOR ME!
WHAM

PUNK
PUNK


TO ACKNOW-LEDGE ME! ¡TO APPRECIATE ME!!

TELL ME, WHERE IS THE MISTAKE IN THAT?!

KLAK

FSH

...I'D HAVE WON THIS WAR...

IF I WASN'T TRAPPED HERE...

IF YOU LIE TO YOURSELF, HOW CAN YOU HAVE FRIENDS? HOW CAN YOU TRUST OR BE TRUSTWORTHY?

SO MANY LIES WILL KEEP YOU FROM EVER SEEING YOUR TRUE SELF!

...TO YOU OR TO MYSELF.

IF I'D DONE THAT I NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD TO LIE TO ANYONE...

FIRST...

I SHOULD'VE ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPRECIATED *MYSELF.*

ITACHI...!

I'D BE SLEEPING BY NOW.

NAW, I JUST WISH WE COULD QUICKLY WRAP UP THIS WAR SO I CAN SLEEP IN AS LATE AS I WANT...

THEY NEVER TELL US REAR GUARD SHINOBI WHAT'S GOING ON.

SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S NINE O'CLOCK ALREADY, HUH...

MY LITTLE BROTHER'S BEEN AWAY ON A MISSION FOR FOREVER AND MAY FINALLY RETURN HOME.

IF THE FIVE PRINCIPLE TERRITORIES STAY FRIENDLY AFTER THE WAR...

I'LL START BY GOING HOME.

...WELL, YEAH...

SO... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN THIS WAR'S OVER?

HUH?

YOU WANNA COME WITH ME...?

I ENVY THOSE WHO HAVE A PLACE TO GO BACK TO...

...

...KABUTO.

BUT IF MY LITTLE BROTHER'S THERE HE CAN LOOK AT YOUR WOUNDS.
I MEAN, I LIVE IN AN ORPHANAGE.
I REALLY HOPE YOU'LL COME HOME THIS TIME...
...
THANKS... URUSHI.
...

I SHALL NOW STOP THE EDOTENSEI JUTSU.
TO BE CONTINUED!!